



Guiding Our Neighbors
Toward Self-Sufficiency

Our Daily Bread, Inc. Fact Sheet: The Need in Our Community



ODB volunteer and family (left) bring food to ODB client and her four children

Amid Great Wealth, Overwhelming Need

It is hard to believe that in one of the wealthiest counties in the nation there are individuals and families who are struggling to pay for life's most basic necessities. Our Daily Bread is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those in need throughout the Fairfax County area, providing temporary food assistance, emergency financial assistance, financial mentoring and budget classes and holiday and school supply assistance. Most of the people we serve are working or trying to work, but are experiencing a financial crisis due to prolonged unemployment, reduced work hours, overwhelming medical bills or another unforeseen emergency. Our goal is to help these families work through their crisis and regain their financial footing to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Since September 2008, ODB has received far more requests for assistance from qualified needy families than we can possibly fulfill. And though the economic recession has officially ended, we continue to see overwhelming need in our community. There are currently more than 60 families on our Food Program waiting list and we are forced to turn down approximately five requests a day for Financial Assistance.

How Great is the Need in the Fairfax County area?

Many families in our community walk a thin line between self-sufficiency and poverty. This was true even before the recession hit, and it continues to escalate. Consider the following statistics:

- Median rent in the County is \$15,804 per year (*Department of Housing and Urban Development*), but a person earning minimum wage can expect to make just under \$14,000 per year (*based on current Federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour*).
- Based on 2007 estimates, a two-parent family with two school-aged children would need to make more than \$56,000 per year to achieve financial self-sufficiency in the County (*Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, 2008 Current State of the Poor*). However, if both parents are working full-time minimum-wage jobs, they would earn less than \$28,000 per year.
- 12.75 percent of Fairfax County residents (approximately 128,000) have incomes below 200 percent of poverty (*2008 Current State of the Poor*).
- Since 2006, the County's social services hotline at Coordinated Services Planning has experienced a prolonged increase in the number of requests for assistance. Requests for emergency food assistance continue to climb annually — from 2,800 in FY2007 to 5,547 in FY2010. (*Trends In Community Needs, Fairfax Department of Systems Management for Human Services, July 2010*).
- In July 2008, the County's unemployment rate was 3 percent. In November 2010, it was 4.6 percent (*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*). There were 27,784 unemployed residents seeking work in November. (*Fairfax County Economic Indicators, December 2010*).

Help Us Spread the Word About the Need in Our Community

Visit: www.our-daily-bread.org

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