



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:

- More than 62,000 Fairfax County residents live below the poverty line (defined as an annual income of \$22,000 for a family of four), and another 86,000 live just above poverty. (*Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, Putting Food on the Table, December 2011*)
- Feeding America's March 2011 Map the Meal Gap study found that 27% of Fairfax County residents live below 130% poverty; 19% live between 130% and 185% poverty; and nearly 70,000 residents don't know where their next meal is coming from. (<http://feedingamerica.org/>).
- According to Fairfax County Public Schools, 24 percent of the children enrolled in their schools receive free or reduced-price meals. (http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school/free_reduced.shtml)
- Median rent in the County is \$16,596 per year (*Fairfax Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, 2010 estimates*), but a person working 40 hours a week and 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.

Help Us Spread the Word About Hunger and Need in Our Community

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