“You have a home here.” Downtown Daily Bread (DDB) offers this heartfelt message to every person who walks through our doors. For the past thirty-six years, we have helped the hungry and homeless in Harrisburg meet basic needs and connect to life-saving services.

DDB is the only one-stop shelter and resource center for homeless individuals in Harrisburg. The Day Shelter and Soup Kitchen are open every day of the year. Every client, each day receives personal attention and access to bathrooms, meals, and counseling. This comprehensive approach has been successful, and demand for our programs has surged.

- **35,111 lunch meals served in the Soup Kitchen**
- **20,083 visits registered in the Day Shelter**
- **5,000 visits for Services**
  (showers, clothing, mail, lockers, counseling, laundry vouchers, bus passes, ID replacement)
- **4,123 bed nights Winter Night Shelter**
- **64,317 total Points of Service annually**

**Mission**

Downtown Daily Bread is a mission project of Pine Street Presbyterian Church, a 501(c)(3) organization. We operate under the belief that no one should go hungry or without shelter, and that addressing basic needs is the first step in helping our homeless clients. Beyond basic needs, it is also essential to build productive relationships with our clients. This trusting connection enables us to work with each individual to improve their immediate and long-term quality of life.

**Population and Geographic Area Served**

The 2018 Point in Time survey conducted by the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness enumerated 445 homeless people in and around Harrisburg. We serve everyone in the community who is hungry and experiencing homelessness. Many clients are chronically homeless due to mental illness, addiction, or prior legal offenses. Some are temporarily homeless due to rising rent prices, loss of employment, or leaving an unstable family situation. Client demographics: 85% male; 7% U.S. veterans; and 75% African American.

**Current Programs**

**Day Shelter (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily):** In 2015, we opened the community’s first and only Day Shelter for homeless individuals, offering a safe and welcoming area to rest, eat, socialize, and connect with DDB counselors. Clients can also access an electronics charging station, telephone, laptops, and a television. Each month, the shelter hosts a rotating schedule of community partners, including Dauphin County Department of Drug &
Alcohol Services, Case Management Unit, Penn State Health, UPMC Pinnacle, Dauphin County Bar Association, and YWCA Veterans Relations.

In 2016, the shelter had an average of 443 visits a month. By 2018, average monthly visits nearly quadrupled to 1,674. December and August are peak months.

**Soup Kitchen (M-F Breakfast 7:00 – 7:50 a.m., Daily Lunch 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.):** Each day, volunteers serve more than 100 warm lunch meals prepared by our small kitchen team. New as of September 2019, we also offer breakfast on weekdays. To date, an average of 50 people come for this morning meal. Last year, we served a total of 35,111 lunches, a 17 percent increase from 2017.

**Client Assistance (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. weekdays):** More than 60 homeless individuals come to DDB each day to meet their basic needs. Clients have access to bathroom facilities, showers, towels and personal care items, new undergarments and clothing, and lockers to store their belongings. In addition, more than 200 clients receive mail at DDB.

**Client Counseling (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. weekdays):** Two staff counselors are available to meet one-on-one with clients to identify needs and next steps toward improving the client’s life quality. It may be a bus pass to get to an employment interview, or a food pantry voucher to help bridge a gap for their family. Sometimes a client needs a PA photo ID card. Other times, clients get referred to community partners who can help with access to health insurance, social security benefits, housing, and job training.

**Night Shelter (December – March, annually):** During the winter season, DDB also opens a Night Shelter which offers warm, safe beds for up to 40 homeless men (age 18 and over) each evening. The shelter is full most nights, and a line usually forms one to two hours in advance of our 7:30 p.m. opening. We collaborate with Bethesda Mission and Christian Churches United to accommodate overflow guests. In our first two seasons, more than 200 men were helped at the Night Shelter.

**Support**
Each year, Downtown Daily Bread raises revenues from a diverse and generous group of donors, including individuals, foundations, religious organizations, local government, and businesses. We also receive an abundance of in-kind donations. Our staff (4 full-time, 7 part-time) strives to keep operations lean and service-focused. Thankfully, we are blessed with a large and dedicated group of volunteers.

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