



Feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless in the Danbury CT area since 1982

MEET OUR PARTNERS



Morning Glory Breakfast Kitchen

Since 2007, the Morning Glory Breakfast program has provided over 100,000 hot and cold breakfasts to Danbury residents in need. The program started out of the Morning Glory van and then moved to Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

Each morning from Monday through Friday, beginning at 6:00 am, Tamara and her staff arrive to prepare the morning's hot meal. Potatoes, eggs, and bacon are a popular offering, along with milk, juice, water, fruit, and yogurt. "Most of the people that come are day laborers. So many of them just grab and go to get to the site where they can get work," said Tamara Espinal, director of the program. Since January, they have been offering the same "dine-in" experience as the regular meal service. They also drop off approximately 30 meals at the two shelters run by ARC.

Once a month, Tamara and her staff open up "The Marketplace", a non-food pantry providing household essential items not covered by food stamps, such as toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, and more. The Marketplace is open on the first Friday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm in the back building. Guests register with their address and a valid ID. Last year, they served 763 families.

Tamara is proud of the work she and her staff do and her passion shows through in her smiling face and kind demeanor. Morning Glory is a program of the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. They receive no government funding and rely on local grants and donations. To find out more about the Morning Glory Breakfast Program and to see what is on their current wish list, visit their website at **Morning Glory**.



Save the Date

**Dorothy Day Annual Picnic
Saturday June 14 from noon until 3pm**

Come join us under the tent in the back of 11 Spring Street. All guests, volunteers, supporters and their families are welcome!

MEET OUR SUPPORTERS



Empathy is the Cure Barry Seroff and Molten Java

Back in December, we received an email from Barry Seroff, a local musician. Barry was starting a music series at Molten Java, a Bethel institution for coffee and community, and wanted to include a fundraiser. He chose Dorothy Day.

He says, "After Trump was elected I was motivated to do something to help the community, so I started a fundraising concert series called 'Empathy Is The Cure'

MEET OUR GUESTS reflections by Jeff Hubsher

**names have been changed*



Martha is a 55-year-old woman from Ecuador. She was taking food home to her apartment. She asked if we had an extra jacket in her size. She was a petite. It just so happened that I saw we had a very beautiful petite jacket. It fit her. Martha happened to be very style conscience and we happened to have a stylish jacket that she liked. Perhaps, kind of in exchange for the jacket, Martha was open to

which happens every second Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm at Molten Java in Bethel. I need to feel like I'm doing something to keep my sanity while it seems like the world is going crazy, this was it. I picked Dorothy Day first because it's a Danbury institution and has helped so many people over the years."

He raised about \$350 and two carfuls of donations. His favorite donation was bags of boutique leather jackets from Jeff and Conor at Auburn Landing Contractors. "I hope those went to good use."

They certainly did Barry. They certainly did. Thank you and **Molten Java** for supporting us.



Club Sandwich Ruby Weiner and Ridgebury Congregational Church

Ruby delivers sandwiches each month to Dorothy Day through her program "Club Sandwich. She was kind enough to tell us how the club began.

"For over 11 years, as a Ridgefield Girl Scout, one of my favorite volunteer activities was to help The Dorothy Day guests. Sandwiches, homemade cookies, toiletries, scarves/hats — were offered over the years, it was a very meaningful way to volunteer. I wanted to make sandwiches again, but not just a few, I wanted to take on 90-120 sandwiches at a time. I thought about it, realized the cost of this type of service, and

telling me her story. Martha works in housekeeping in a local hotel. "So why are you here then if you have a job" I asked her. She explained to me that they just don't pay her very much. "We have to make choices between our bills, our rent, and our food", she said. She told me that Dorothy Day helps make up the difference. "things cost so big and they pay me so small" So Martha is here every day in our kitchen, and we're helping her and her family survive in a world that does not pay housekeepers very much money.

Bautista is 60 years old. Like a lot of older men, he's got a prostate problem. Bautista is originally from Venezuela and has been living in Danbury for the last 25 years. He is currently divorced. He is a house painter by profession. He still gets an occasional job but can't work so much because of his prostate issue. For the last week, for the first time in his life, he has been living in a shelter. He lost his apartment because he didn't have enough money because he didn't get much work because he has a medical condition. He comes to us every day in order to have food to eat.

Betty, a woman of about 55 still has her Polish accent, even though she's been living here in the States, a nation of immigrants, for many many years. She's carrying all of her possessions in two heavy bags. Recently, she had a falling out with her roommate - "too stressful", she told me. Betty is now back in the shelter system like she's been in before. She carries her heavy bags because she doesn't like to leave them in the shelter, unguarded. The people in the shelter cannot stay there all day. They're forced to leave the shelter in the morning and come back in the evening. Betty now comes to our Soup Kitchen every day because according to her, "there's literally no place else to go in order to eat". For Betty and many many more people Dorothy Day is the safety net between eating and going hungry.

thought maybe I would look into another grant.

About a month later, I was having lunch with my parents, and my Mom asked me how my sandwich-making idea for DD was coming along. The waitress had come over at that point and asked for our order. My parents were ordering, and I quickly looked down at the menu, and there it was, under sandwiches: a “Club Sandwich.” I had my answer — as a lunch choice but, more importantly, as a way to make my sandwich-making idea come about! I asked my parents what they thought of a group or “Club” of sandwich-making volunteers taking in donations and, in turn, making 90-120 sandwich meals for DD monthly. They loved the idea!

I immediately contacted Pastor Debbie Rundlett at Ridgebury Congregational church. We set up a meeting with Carole Bishop and Heather Cochrane, and I asked for their approval for this endeavor. They loved the idea, and Pastor Debbie immediately said, “Yes!” I was offered space in The Meetinghouse at Ridgebury Congregational to make the sandwiches, organize the meals, and pack them in brightly decorated bags with inspirational messages so the recipients would feel good about their meal and themselves.

I do all of this with an awesome group of volunteers of all ages (from 5 years old to 87 years old!) There are volunteers for the day and long-term volunteers who come back every month. I ask for donations from local markets, shops, and food distributors, who, in turn, have been generous and kind. Many local residents and organizations have also made heartfelt donations.

When my parents and I deliver the meals to DD, we are always greeted with smiles and gratitude. I only hope the people working at DD know how much I admire them and how much gratitude I have for these role models. There is so much food insecurity right in our towns. What the people at DD do is incredible, kind, and so very needed. They help their community rise up.

In the future, I will continue to help those facing food insecurity. Ridgefield is still at 33% food insecure. Sadly, surrounding areas are worse off. I always ask myself, “How can that be?” There has to be enough for everyone. If I have food and someone

Gabe is 33 years old. He lived in Danbury his whole life. He is a nice, tall, good-looking young man. Gabe started to drink just after high school. He kept drinking enough for his loving parents to kick him out of the house. And enough for his brother who runs a construction company, to tell him not to come back to work anymore. This nice articulate friendly man now tells me he’s clean, but I see him associating with people who are drinking right in front of Dorothy Day. He was hopeful, he told me. “In a week I’m going to get together with my parents. It’ll be the first time in a year. Hopefully, we can begin to patch things up.” I hope that his hope is fulfilled and his desire to be reunited with his family comes true. Addiction is a terrible disease it robs people of happiness. It breaks up families. It destroys lives. I wish Gabe well but for the moment he’s either living in the street or in a shelter and he has no kitchen. So we feed Gabe every day.

Kathleen needed a coat. She was sitting in our indoor dining area talking to her friend. “Excuse me, “ she said to me. “I’m really cold. Do you have a coat?” “I think I have the perfect coat,” I said, “but tell me what brings you here today,” I said, starting up a conversation. “I come here almost every day.” She said. “How come you come here? No job?” I questioned. “Got a little problem getting a job. Was in jail for a short time, domestic violence, had a little issue with my partner who called the cops.” She said matter of factly. I found the perfect coat for Kathleen. We had it in our basement. She tried it on. Her face lit up - it fit her perfectly. She was happy, and so was I.

Arthur, 61 years old, looks like the banker he used to be. He shows up at our window “I used to volunteer here in Dorothy Day. I used to be very helpful and involved.” He had been one of us. Now, his life is different. Newly divorced, without a

needs food, I share. If the roles were reversed, I would hope someone would share with me. No judgment, no shame, just humanity. As the signs on each of the pantries read, "Take What You Need, Bring What You Can, Fill Our Town with Love." And that's exactly my plan for today, tomorrow, and always!"



The Social Action Committee of the Sisterhood of Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties, located in Ridgefield, spent a recent Wednesday morning getting the kitchen ready, chatting, forming friendships, and, most importantly, preparing a meal of chicken, potatoes, and salad for our guests.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Shower and Clothing Update

We have been very busy this winter, giving out 511 jackets since the onset of cold weather!

Now, It's time to transition to our spring clothing needs. There are special needs for our shower program too! We provide men and women with new underwear each time they shower. In March alone, we served 107 guests. See below for an updated list.

There are also volunteer opportunities for people with retail skills to display and organize clothing donations on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm and Saturday mornings from 9 am to 11 am. It is a big help to our guests when our clothing donations are organized by size and category.

You can sign-up to volunteer at ddhsandwiches@gmail.com.

job, and struggling to stay sober. Arthur has a drinking problem that changed his life. Instead of being in his house, in his home with his wife and his family, he's living in a shelter and picking up food from us. Arthur could be any one of us, or my uncle, or one of our brothers. "Y'know, it's everywhere, it's legal, and they advertise it." he said, "and if you are susceptible to drinking, it's hard not to drink. He tells me he'll be on his feet again, but in the meantime, we feed him as best we can.



RUN A DONATION DRIVE

Interested in running a drive of your own for some of our most needed items? (see below for current needs):

POST the drive on your Facebook page, as well as on your local town and community pages.

LIST the items you are collecting. Please specify "new/gently used", who they are for (men/women), and specific sizes if possible.

NOTE the drop-off location - if the drop-off is at DDHH. add the address 11 Spring Street, Danbury, CT, and time 1:00 - 2:00 pm. If you will be collecting the items personally, for security purposes, have people contact you for the address.

Clothing donations* can be delivered to the kitchen daily from 1:00 to 2:00.

HELP WANTED

Dorothy Day Hospitality House is seeking a dedicated volunteer to identify funding opportunities and write grants to support our mission. If you're interested, please reach out to Joe Simons at joesimons@yahoo.com.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		Clothing Totals			Jackets		Jackets
2		Month	2023	2024		2025	
3		JAN	197	228[98N]		150[51N]	116
4		FEB	129	191[77N]		129[28N]	85
5		MAR	145	155[59N]*		123[29N]	73
6		APR	108	141[57N]			
7		MAY	110	122[25N]*			
8		JUN	102	127[35N]			
9		JUL	117	131[30N]			
10		AUG	128	136[39N]			
11		SEPT	145	153[42N]			
12		OCT	152	147[35N]	62		
13		NOV	188	144[59N]	86		
14		DEC	75*	119[37N]*	89		
15							
16			*Santa's Workshop				
17			*Closed for Easter				
18			*Closed for Memorial Day				
19			N=new				

DONATION DROP OFF NEW HOURS

Our advertised time for people to drop off sandwiches and other donations is now 1pm to 2pm daily. We think this would be better for kitchen volunteers because fewer donations would be coming in from 2 to 230 when you are busy getting your meal prep finished. This would be particularly useful if you are low on sandwiches and need the sandwiches being delivered that day to go into your takeout bags.

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Shower Totals			
2		Month	2023	2024	2025
3		JAN	21	57	87
4		FEB	34	62	105
5		MAR	35	62	107
6		APR	32	62	
7		MAY	60	66	
8		JUN	62	79	
9		JUL	70	80	
10		AUG	51	70	
11		SEPT	73	78	
12		OCT	54	76	
13		NOV	49	52	
14		DEC	43	85	

CURRENT NEEDS

CURRENT CLOTHING NEEDS

CLOTHING: short-sleeved novelty tee shirts for men, polo shirts, hoodies, shorts, and jeans- especially waist sizes 30, 32, 34; men's shoes, especially sizes 8 and 8½; cotton or knit boxer briefs, medium and large; men's white crew neck tee shirts in medium and large; Women's size 5 and 6 underpants and clear, wearable bras.

TOILETRIES: Donations of disposable razors, combs,

CONTACT US:

For Future Newsletter submissions, email us **HERE** with "DD Newsletter Submission" in the Subject line

For information on volunteering in the kitchen, **CLICK HERE**

For information and to volunteer for Sandwich Making, **CLICK HERE** :

To volunteer for Shelter Showers and/or Clothing Distribution, **CLICK HERE**

deodorants,
travel-size shampoo, conditioner,
deodorant, moisturizer, toothpaste, bar
soap, feminine hygiene supplies.

FOOD: Bottled water, canned
vegetables, coffee, sugar, grape jelly,
canned chicken

For a more detailed list, **CLICK HERE**
All donations can be dropped off at the
Dorothy Day kitchen between
1:00 and 2.00 pm

For all other inquires, **CLICK HERE**

Our organization is run entirely by
volunteers. We appreciate your
patience as we make every effort to
respond in a timely manner.

Dorothy Day Hospitality House
11 Spring Street
Danbury CT 06810

Mailing Address:
PO Box 922
Danbury CT 06813-0922

Connect with us

Tel: (203) 743-7988
E-mail: ddhinformation@gmail.com
website: www.dorothydaydanbury.org

Dorothy Day Hospitality House | 11 Spring Street | Danbury, CT 06810 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!