



Providing food.
Providing housing.
Providing hope.

FALL 2026

ProvidenceConnects.org

We Changed How We Meet People – AND IT WORKED!

In May 2025, Providence Connects made a bold change in how we serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We closed the doors of our traditional drop-in center and took our services into the community—meeting people where they are through street outreach and four neighborhood access points. Today, that transition has proven successful. Our Outreach Team is on the streets every day, building relationships, connecting people to food, showers, healthcare, identification, benefits, treatment, and, ultimately, housing. **It's about earning trust, showing up consistently, and walking with our most vulnerable neighbors from surviving to thriving.**



From left to right, this is the front-line team: Bob Birmingham (SOAR Certified Outreach Specialist), Vidya Bhagu (Senior Case Manager), Kim Loeak (Housing Case Manager), Joel Isaac (Outreach Specialist), Ray Lucas (Peer Support Specialist).

This is What an Outreach Site Looks Like



Choosing a fresh set of clothes from the closet truck.



Joel is ready for business in the mobile office.



Outreach partner, Streetside Showers, can facilitate about 30 showers per outreach site.



The food truck serves about 200 hot meals per week.

Four Churches. One Shared Mission.

Our four original access-point churches—partners who stepped forward with us in May 2025 and opened their doors—remain committed partners, allowing us to meet people in need in four distinct areas around Melbourne.



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One Week. Many Stories. One Goal.

No two days look alike for our Outreach Team—and that's exactly the point. Every person we meet has a different story, different challenges, and different needs, and those needs can change from one day to the next. One day might mean helping someone replace a lost ID; the next, connecting someone to healthcare, treatment, or housing. Sometimes the most important thing our team can do is simply show up, listen, and build trust. The circumstances may change, but our goal never does: helping our neighbors move toward stability. Here are the stories from one week in August.



A Home Years in the Making.

For Jarvoris, this move-in day was much more than getting the keys to an apartment—it was the beginning of a new chapter.

Jarvoris had been living outside for at least five years while navigating complicated health challenges. For the past year, Providence Connects Housing Case Manager Kim Loeak has walked alongside him, helping him overcome one obstacle after another on the road to housing.

When a home finally became available, Kim was there to help make the transition possible. Cynthia Romero from Catholic Charities joined them as well, helping with the practical needs that can make the difference between finding a home and being able to move into it—including utilities, deposits and other move-in expenses.

After five years outside, Jarvoris finally had a place to call home.

This is what outreach looks like: showing up, building trust, working through the challenges and staying with someone until “someday” becomes move-in day.

It's the Little Things.

When an outreach guest told Ray that Sara (name changed for privacy) was in the hospital, Ray called to check on her. The hospital asked for Sara's date of birth—and when Ray looked it up in our records, he realized it was her birthday. So Ray headed to the pantry, picked up a birthday cake and card, and gathered signatures from the team before delivering them to Sara at the hospital. It's a small moment that says a lot about our Outreach Team: they don't just connect people to services—they know them, remember them, and genuinely care about what happens to them.



One Step Closer to Home.

When Bob received the call from the Brevard Homeless Coalition about an ADA-compliant home in Cocoa, the team got to work and identified three long-term clients who need housing urgently due to disabilities. This is John, Francis, and Rebecca waiting at the bus stop on their way to an important appointment at the Housing Authority, and one more step closer toward a home of their own.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

People come to Providence Connects for many reasons. A family may visit our pantry because they need help putting food on the table. Someone experiencing homelessness may meet our team at an outreach access point. Another person may reach out because of a housing crisis or simply because they are unsure where else to turn.

Whatever first brings someone to us, we hope they find more than a service. We hope they find connection.

That connection is often the beginning of a pathway toward stability. Food, housing assistance, and other practical resources matter deeply, but so does knowing that someone sees you, listens to you, and is willing to walk alongside you. Trust can take time, especially for people who have experienced homelessness, marginalization, disappointment, or rejection. Some have learned through painful experience to be cautious about letting others into their lives.

That is why the relationships formed here are so meaningful. Over the years, one of my greatest joys has been getting to know people whose paths might never otherwise have crossed mine. I know our staff and volunteers have experienced that same joy. We may begin by offering food, helping with housing, or connecting someone to a resource, but often something deeper happens: we begin to know one another.

This is true for our volunteers as well. People often come wanting to give their time or lend a hand, only to discover that they, too, receive something—the gift of relationship, shared humanity, and belonging.

At Providence Connects, connection is not simply part of what we do. It is at the heart of who we are and how pathways to stability begin.

With gratitude,

Jeffrey Njus
Executive Director



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MISSION

Walking with our neighbors from surviving to thriving by providing food, housing, and trusted support.

MAILING ADDRESS

Providence Connects

17 E. Hibiscus Blvd.

Melbourne, FL 32901

www.providenceconnects.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1.800.435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state registration #ch1772. 100% of the new proceeds benefit the mission of Providence Connects Inc.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Nine months into the merger of Daily Bread and the South Brevard Sharing Center, food distribution remains a critical pillar of Providence Connects' mission—and one of the most important ways we connect with our neighbors.

In the first half of 2026, our Outreach Team served more than **5,000 meals to 1,603 unique individuals**. Whether someone stops by for a meal, visits our mobile outreach, or connects with our team in the community, food often provides the first opportunity to build a relationship. A meal meets an immediate need, but the conversation that comes with it can open the door to something more: housing, healthcare, employment assistance, mental health support, or simply a trusted person who is willing to listen.

Behind the scenes, our warehouse continues to expand the reach of our food distribution network. Today, nearly **50 local food pantries and meal programs** rely on Providence Connects to help keep their shelves and kitchens stocked. In July alone, our warehouse provided food to support **4,400 individuals** throughout our community. By strengthening the capacity of these partner organizations, we can reach neighbors in communities and settings far beyond our own doors.

At the Fresh Choice Pantry, the impact is equally significant. During the first half of 2026, the pantry recorded more than **12,000 visits**, giving families the opportunity to choose the foods that best meet their needs. Fresh produce, dairy products, and nutrient-rich protein options are helping put healthier, more nourishing food on tables across South Brevard.

But food distribution is about more than food.

It is about connection. It is a way to meet people where they are, build trust over time, and understand what else may be standing between a neighbor and stability. Sometimes the first step toward a healthier, more secure future begins with something as simple—and as important—as a meal.

At Providence Connects, we believe nourishment is foundational. **When we provide food, we create an opportunity to provide so much more.**



Unloading a delivery from Second Harvest.



Vicki, a valued volunteer and a guest.



An outreach guest enjoying a hot meal.



Friends from Orlando Health touring the pantry.



Outreach staff touring construction and dreaming about the lives that will launch here.



Jeffrey Njus with Partner, Keith Donald.



Construction progress as of August 1.

PROVIDENCE PLACE UPDATE *-The Final Countdown*

Today, Providence Place is no longer just a vision. Construction is underway. Foundations have been poured. Millions of dollars have already been invested by local governments, healthcare organizations, foundations, businesses, churches, and generous individuals who believe our community can solve homelessness.

Now we are entering the final phase of the campaign. Just \$1 million remains to complete this transformational project.

The finish line is in sight, but we cannot cross it alone.

Whether through a financial gift, introducing us to someone who shares this vision, praying for the project, or simply helping others understand that homelessness is a housing issue, every person has a role to play.

Years from now, when families, veterans, seniors, and individuals who once lived on our streets are thriving in stable housing, our community will be able to say we came together to make it happen.

We invite you to be part of that story. Contact brandy@providence.place to make a gift.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: *Celebrating Betsy McCollough*

At the end of August, Providence Connects said goodbye to someone who has been so much more than an office manager—and celebrated all that she has brought to our organization.

A proud Florida State alumna and longtime Collins Aerospace professional, Betsy finally settled into the retirement she had worked so hard to earn in 2016. But it didn't take long for her to realize that she needed somewhere to be and something meaningful to do each day. Fortunately for us, she found her way to Daily Bread on Fee Ave.

Betsy joined our team in 2018 and served as "volunteer" volunteer coordinator before becoming office manager. And while "Office Manager" may have been her title, anyone who knows Betsy knows it hardly begins to describe what she did. Affectionately known as "Aunty Betsy" by some, she was the person staff could turn to for advice, encouragement, a solution to a problem—or sometimes just a listening ear.

Her care extended to our clients, too. From helping a woman find a wedding dress on short notice to overseeing volunteers in the Fresh Choice Pantry, Betsy has always found a way to make a difference. Most recently, she played an important role in the smooth transition from Daily Bread to Providence Connects and brought her energy and enthusiasm to Magic of Christmas.

"Betsy has been one of those rare people who makes an organization stronger simply by being part of it," says Executive Director Jeffrey Njus. "Her wisdom, generosity, humor, and genuine care for people have touched our staff, our volunteers, and our clients. We are deeply grateful for everything she has given us—especially for sharing her beautiful heart with us.

Thank you, Betsy, for everything. You will be missed more than you know!



Betsy greeting guests at the Fresh Choice Pantry.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Diane Murphy*

For Diane Murphy, helping others has never been about recognition. It has simply been part of who she is.

A disabled veteran, Diane settled in Melbourne, Florida, in 1996 and later spent 20 years working for the City of Melbourne. As an Equipment Operator near Fee Avenue, she regularly encountered people experiencing homelessness, learning their names, listening to their stories, and seeing the people behind their circumstances.

Her heart especially went out to women experiencing homelessness. "No matter their age, homeless women face more danger," says Diane.

Years later, that compassion came full circle. While working near Fee Avenue, Diane was often near the former Daily Bread, now Providence Connects, never imagining it would become such an important part of her own story.

Just three months into retirement, Diane wanted to stay active and connected. After being referred to Daily Bread, she was encouraged to apply for a paid driver position. Instead, she turned it down, believing the job should go to someone who needed the income, and chose to volunteer.

Eight years later, she is still showing up.

Diane initially volunteered six days a week supporting warehouse food distribution. Today, she volunteers three days each week, often alongside her husband.

Through her work, Diane helps ensure food reaches neighbors who need it. From serving her country to serving her community, her life has been defined by showing up for others.



Diane gets to work in the warehouse.

Thank you to our grantors!

Grants—both for general operating support and specific programs—are a vital part of Providence Connects' funding mix because they provide the stability and flexibility needed to sustain and grow our impact. General operating grants allow us to keep our doors open every day, fund essential staff positions, and respond to urgent, often unpredictable needs in our community. Program-specific grants, on the other hand, help us expand targeted initiatives such as street outreach, healthcare navigation, or our food truck, enabling innovation and measurable outcomes. Together, these funding streams ensure we can meet immediate needs while building long-term solutions to homelessness and poverty.

OPERATING SUPPORT:

Bank of America



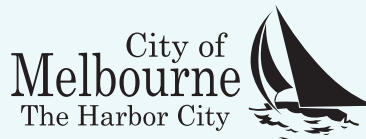
**Gemini Family
Charitable Fund**

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

**Margaret Binz
Foundation**

**Jan Pridmore
Foundation**

OUTREACH SUPPORT:



HealthFirst

FOOD SUPPORT:



HEALTHCARE SUPPORT:

**The Albert E. and Birdie W.
Einstein Fund, Inc.**

Give with Confidence!



Candid's Platinum Seal recognizes philanthropic organizations that demonstrate a deep commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity and operate from a position of strong financial health.

Keep up with us!



providenceconnects and
providenceplacespacecoast



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Let's Do Some Good Together.

Your company has the power to make a meaningful difference right here in our community. By partnering with Providence Connects, you help connect neighbors to food, trusted support and housing—while giving your team a simple, meaningful way to be part of something bigger. **Visit ProvidenceConnects.org/corporate-partnership to learn more.**



Providing food. Providing housing. Providing hope.

17 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901



ONE CONNECTED SYSTEM OF CARE
Guiding our neighbors from crisis to stability.

YOU'RE INVITED

DIGNITY DAY BREAKFAST

BUILDING PATHWAYS TO STABILITY

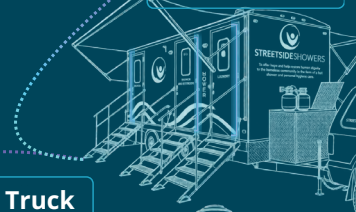
Join us as we honor our legacy and build the future:
a single, connected system of care dedicated to
creating **pathways to stability** for our neighbors.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Providence Place



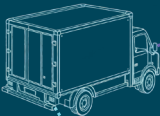
Shower Truck



Food Truck



Warehouse



Outreach Van



Providing:



Food



Housing



Hope

RSVP today at providenceconnects.org/dignity.