

A photograph of a woman with dark hair and a green top kissing a young child on the cheek. The child has braided hair and is wearing a grey shirt. They are in a room with purple walls, a spiral notebook on the wall, and a poster that says "All your life you're an ALER".

# Annual Report 2008



Meyer Foundation

65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

“Now is the accepted time,  
not tomorrow,  
not some more convenient season,  
It is today that our best work can be done  
And not some future day  
Or future year...”

W.E.B. Dubois

Cover photo: Many mothers and babies would not have access to basic health care without **Community of Hope**.



**Manna Food Center's** apartment delivery program serves low-income seniors and people with disabilities in several housing complexes in Montgomery County, Maryland. Each month, approximately 410 people are served through the program.



IN WASHINGTON, DC

**29%**

of children under 18  
live below the poverty level

Late last year, the world changed drastically.  
Many people in our community are in crisis,  
unclear **where to turn for help.**



MANNA FOOD CENTER  
distributes food to more than

**3,200**

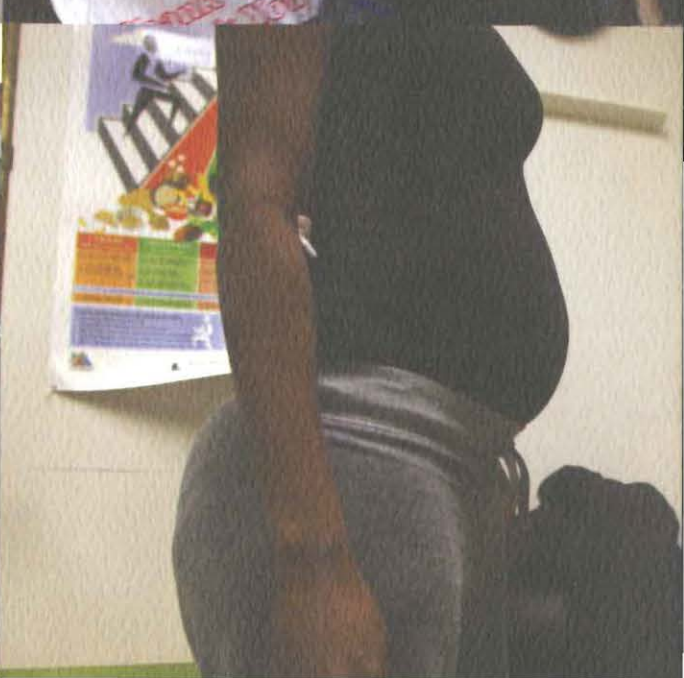
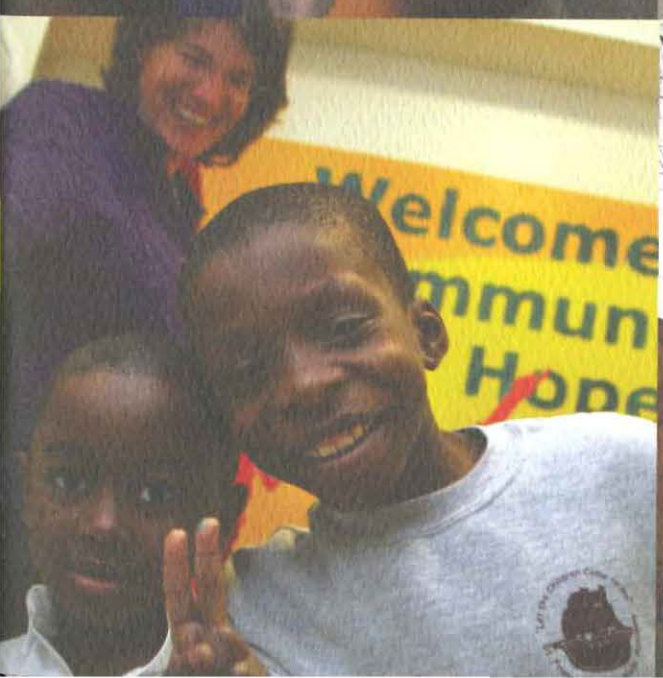
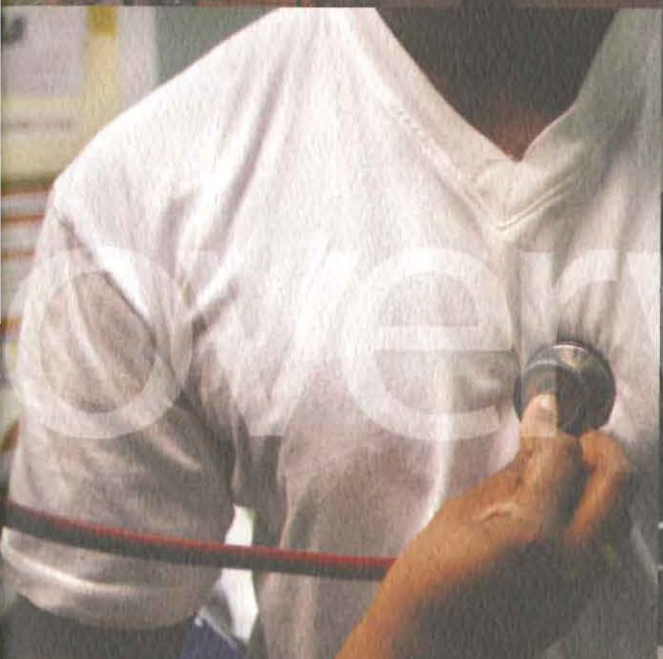
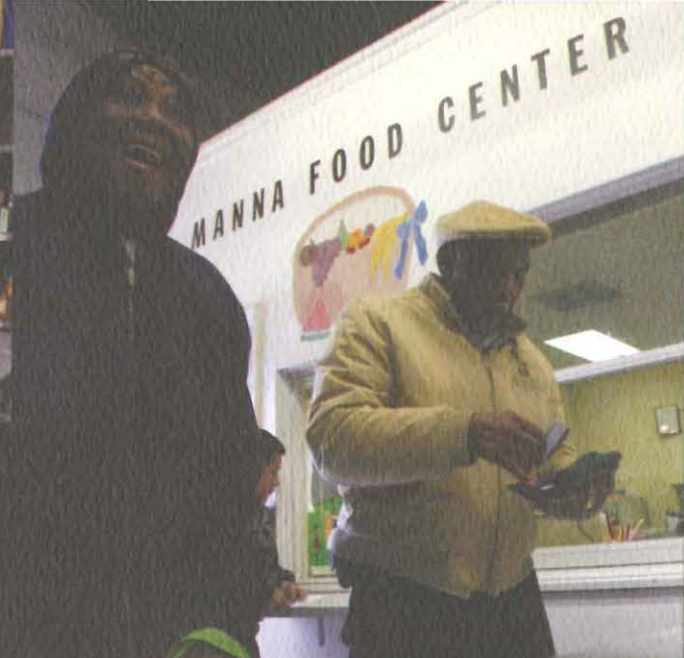
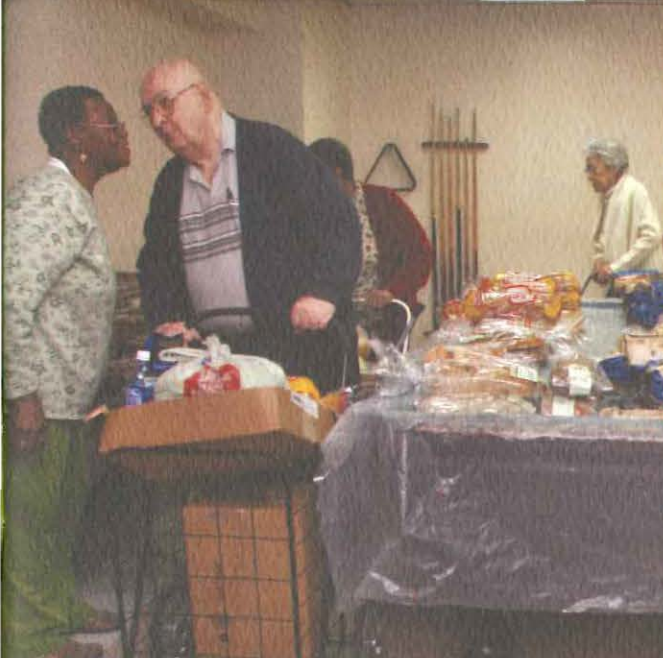
families each month

They are consumed with survival.

They are often overwhelmed  
by paperwork and policies.

They may not know how to find help.

Top row, left to right: **Manna Food Center:** Seniors pick up food at the distribution center. Volunteers are the lifeblood of nonprofits and this volunteer comes in twice a week to organize food. Clients pick up three to five days worth of food once a month. Middle, left to right: **Bread for the City:** Groundbreaking recently took place on a new building that will more than double the medical clinic's capacity. Though the need for food may initially bring people in, the staff often learn through their intake process that other issues are at play, such as domestic violence, medical, or legal concerns. Eligible clients are elderly, disabled, or families with children. Bottom, left to right, **Community of Hope:** Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Temporary housing addresses the most immediate need of homeless families by providing a place to live and social support while the family works to create a better life. Community of Hope Health Services provide a full range of primary health care, including prenatal and pediatric care.



Many wind up at the doors  
of community organizations like  
**Bread for the City,**  
**Manna Food Center,**  
and **Community of Hope.**





**George Jones** of **Bread for the City**, says that the first signs of a recession were already visible three years ago: rising utility costs, increasing property assessments, and escalating food prices.



According to **Amy Gabala** of **Manna Food Center**, Montgomery County, Maryland—one of the wealthiest counties in the country—now has schools with the same federal poverty rate as the poorest parts of DC.

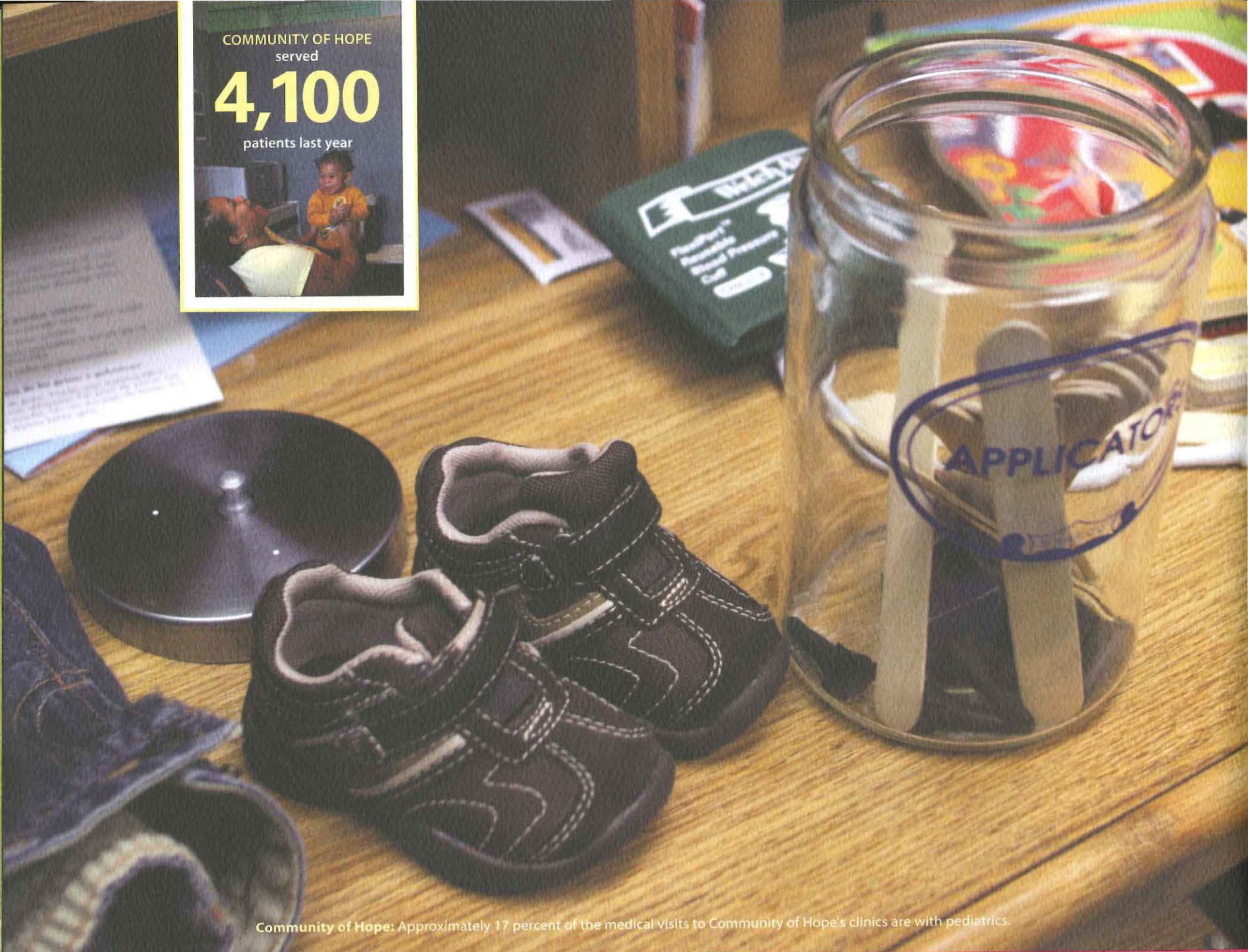


Homeless children are more likely to have at least one major mental illness, says **Kelly Sweeney McShane**, which is why **Community of Hope** assigns each family a case manager and a youth advocate.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE  
served

**4,100**

patients last year



Community of Hope: Approximately 17 percent of the medical visits to Community of Hope's clinics are with pediatrics.

It is here that they first realize



they are not alone.

When the bottom dropped out, nonprofits like these three providing essential services were there to catch people when they fell.

**Bread for the City=**

mental health + medical care +  
advocacy + legal services + food + clothing

**Manna Food Center=**

feeding families + kids' snacks +  
food delivery for seniors + advocacy

**Community of Hope=**

housing for homeless families +  
social services + health care

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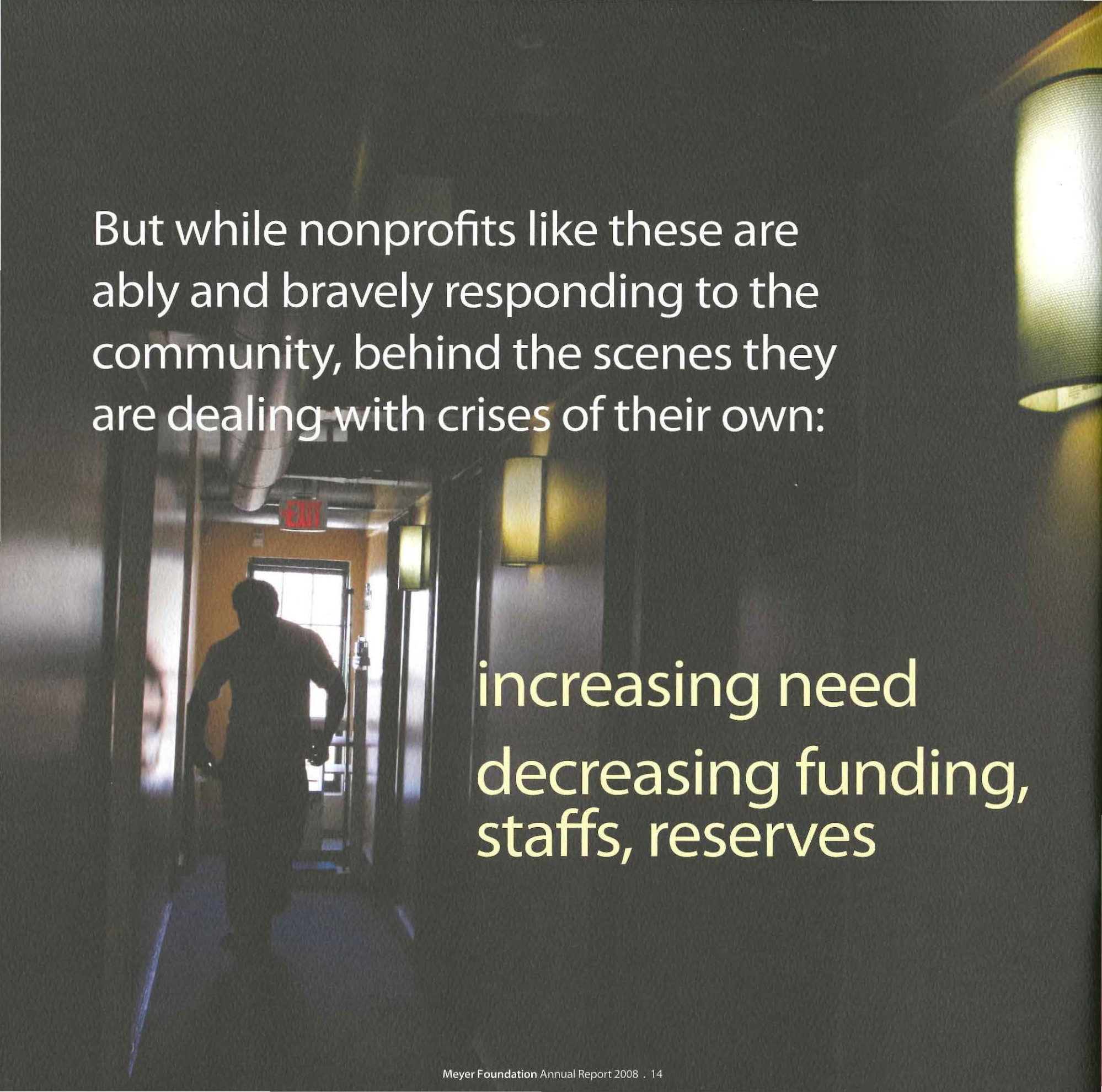


“This is the new normal,”

says Amy Gabala of Manna Food Center.

more with less

Manna Food Center stocks food for special client needs, including infant formula and foods for vegetarians and those with diabetes.



But while nonprofits like these are ably and bravely responding to the community, behind the scenes they are dealing with crises of their own:

increasing need  
decreasing funding,  
staffs, reserves

Where is *their* safety net?



Facing page: **Bread for the City.**

Lines are longer; need is greater.  
And budgets are smaller.

Amy Gabala sees a 50 percent increase in clients needing food at Manna Food Center.

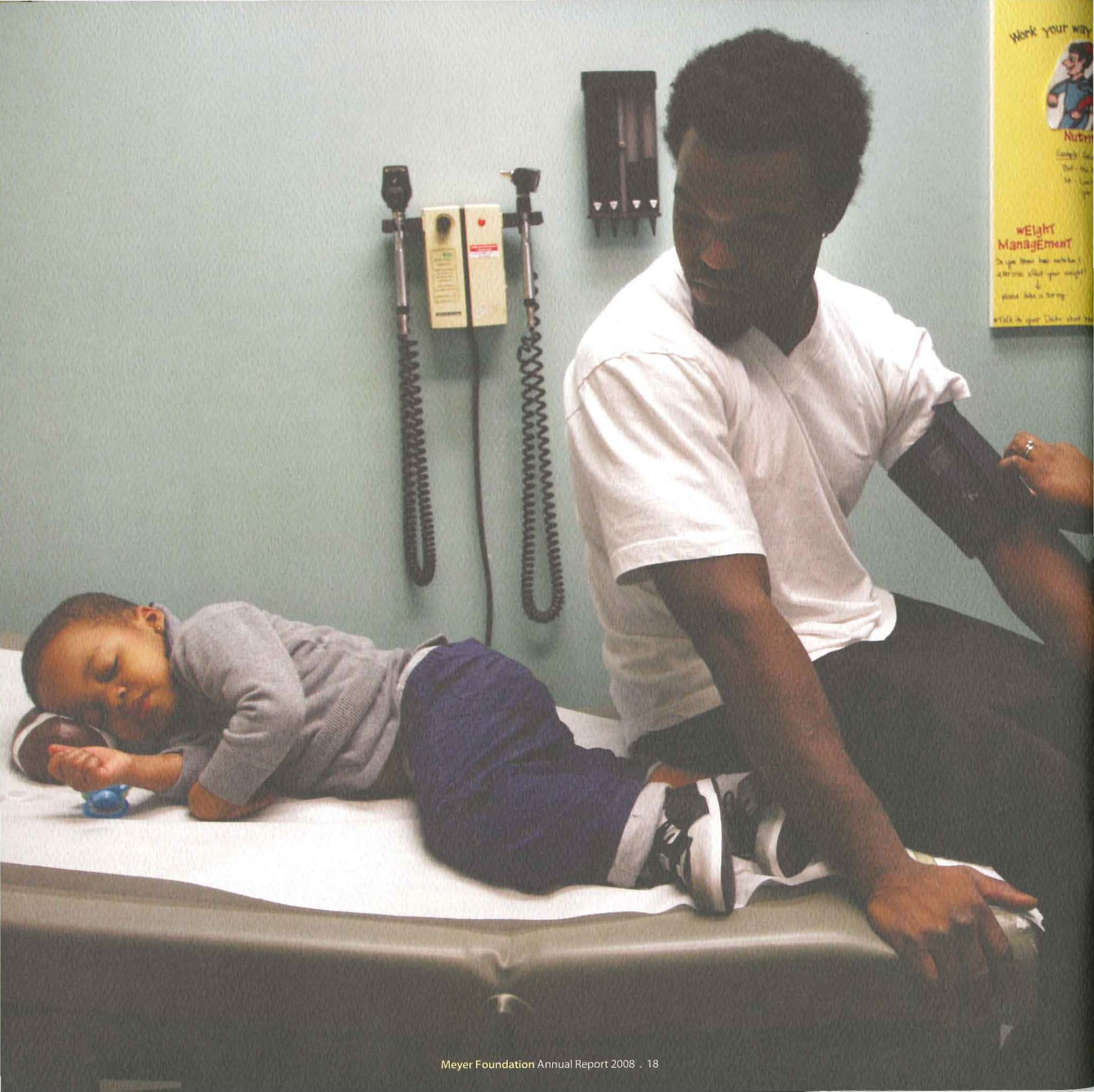
Bread for the City's George Jones was forced to cut Friday hours and slash salaries.

Kelly Sweeney McShane of Community of Hope fears loss of funding could force one of her housing programs to close. "Yes means stretching too thin; no means we're turning people away," she says.

Still these organizations persevere. They prepare contingency budgets and forge new partnerships. They find more efficiencies in the way that they work. They continue to do the heavy lifting needed in times of crisis.



Who takes  
care of them  
while they  
take care of us?



# The Meyer Foundation is responding and adapting to these seismic changes in our economy.



Our priority is to continue to support longstanding, effective grantees.

We will continue to provide general operating support grants whenever possible.

We remain committed to nonprofits that provide direct services as well as those that effectively advocate for social justice.

We will continue to bolster strong and effective nonprofit leaders.

We will offer our new conference space free to grantees and funding partners.

In this climate of dramatic change, the fundamental character of this institution remains the same as it was at its creation 65 years ago: we are committed to listening deeply and looking for innovative ways to support community leaders as they work tirelessly in our region.

Medical services offered to clients at **Bread for the City** include adult general medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN care, and job physicals. The clinic provides examinations, medications, lab tests, and referrals at no charge.

# How we work

The Meyer Foundation works to strengthen nonprofit organizations and to address important issues that will improve the quality of life for people in the Greater Washington, DC area.

## Collaborating

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Meyer staff participate in the larger community by serving on many boards, committees, and working groups.

## Connecting

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We connect donors with grantees that meet their interests. We serve as matchmakers for grantees that share common interests and goals.

## Supporting

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The Exponent Awards sustain and raise the visibility of visionary nonprofit leaders.

## Scanning

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Our research reports have garnered national attention and have sparked dialogue on nonprofit leadership issues.

## Listening

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Our program officers listen deeply to community needs and develop strong relationships with grantees.

## Advocating

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We are committed to raising the voice and visibility of the nonprofit sector.

## Communicating

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We provide timely information and resources through our website and e-newsletters. We raise the visibility of some of our most effective grantees.

## Leveraging

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We leverage millions of dollars of local and national funding for our grantees.

## Advising

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Program officers serve as sounding boards for ideas, offer program strategy, and management and leadership tips.





To learn more about or to support the three organizations featured in this report and the other extraordinary grantees we fund, visit [www.meyerfoundation.org/annual08](http://www.meyerfoundation.org/annual08)

**Bread for the City**  
[www.BreadfortheCity.org](http://www.BreadfortheCity.org)

**Community of Hope**  
[www.communityofhopedc.org](http://www.communityofhopedc.org)

**Manna Food Center**  
[www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org)

Photo this page: **Community of Hope**

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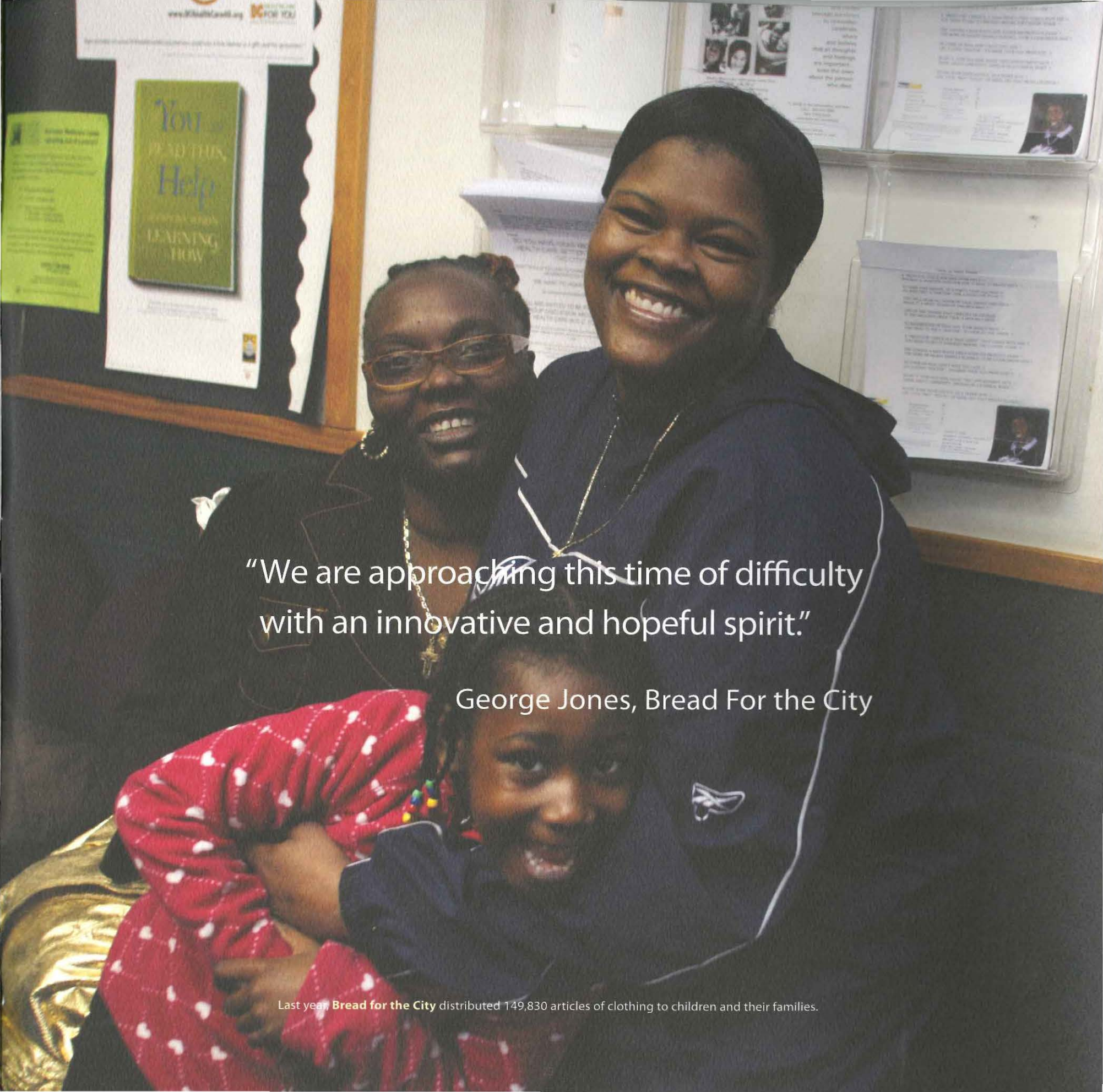
Pennsylvania native CAROL GUZY has been a staff photographer at *The Washington Post* since 1988. Prior to that she was staff photographer for *The Miami Herald*. A change of heart in career choices made her switch from nursing to photography. Her assignments include both domestic and international stories and documentary reportage. She has been honored twice with the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography for her coverage of the military intervention in Haiti and the devastating mudslide in Armero, Columbia. Carol received a rare third Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for her work in Kosovo. She has been named Photographer of the Year for the National Press Photographers Association and has earned other prestigious awards in photojournalism. Carol lives in Arlington, Virginia.



Creative Direction: Amy K. Harbison. Design by Kelly Pollins. Printing by Automated Graphic Resources. Photographs by Carol Guzy. Meyer Foundation staff photos by Milke Morgan.



This publication is printed on a recycled sheet containing 30% postconsumer waste fiber.



"We are approaching this time of difficulty  
with an innovative and hopeful spirit."

George Jones, Bread For the City

Last year, **Bread for the City** distributed 149,830 articles of clothing to children and their families.

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