NOW & NEXT

Meeting the needs of today. Cultivating the leaders of tomorrow.



OUR DAILY BREAD · MEETING TODAY'S NEED



DOWNTOWN ACADEMY · CULTIVATING TOMORROW



ATHENS, GEORGIA · OUR YEAR IN IMPACT

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES

OUR DAILY bread DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES

DOWNTOWN ACADEMY

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES
EMERGING LEADERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

downtownministries.org · 250 N. Milledge Ave, Athens, GA 30601 · @DowntownMinistries

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

ON THE YEAR BEHIND & AHEAD



ANTONIO DERRICOTTE

Executive Director, Downtown Ministries

Dear friends of Downtown Ministries,

One hot August morning, I saw an Our Daily Bread guest in the Downtown Academy parking lot. When I asked if he had enjoyed breakfast, he smiled and said, "Yes, I did. And I also got a fresh haircut from ODB yesterday. If I get this job after the interview, everything will be complete."

His words reminded me that **our impact extends beyond meeting short-term needs**. We believe in meeting people where they are, and establishing partnerships through acts of service. We help people **take steps toward a more stable future**. Through the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, beautiful moments like this are possible.

In 2026, the number of guests at Our Daily Bread has increased, with new guests arriving from communities across the East Coast. We are committed to serving with love and compassion while helping guests **connect to resources and partnerships** that support employment, personal care, housing, and long-term stability.

We are equally grateful for Downtown Academy. We have wonderful students in Pre-K through fifth grade. We have the opportunity to **nurture faith, build character, and provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning and purpose**. This foundation shows as we celebrate students' academic success at Downtown Academy and as they progress through middle school and beyond.

Our Daily Bread meets today's needs. Downtown Academy invests in tomorrow's possibilities. **Both ministries reflect our commitment to serving people with dignity and helping our community flourish**.

Ephesians 4:2–3 calls us to live with humility, gentleness, patience, and love, maintaining the unity of the Spirit. As we move into this next chapter, **we invite you** to invest or invest more deeply in the work of Downtown Ministries. We welcome new donors, volunteers, partners, friends, and prayers. **Come and see faith and compassion in action**. Together, we can make a lasting difference, one life at a time.

With gratitude,

Antonio Derricotte

We meet people where they are. We invest in where they're going.

HOW THE NOW & NEXT WORKS

OUR APPROACH · HOW WE RESPOND & HOW WE INVEST

THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE WORK

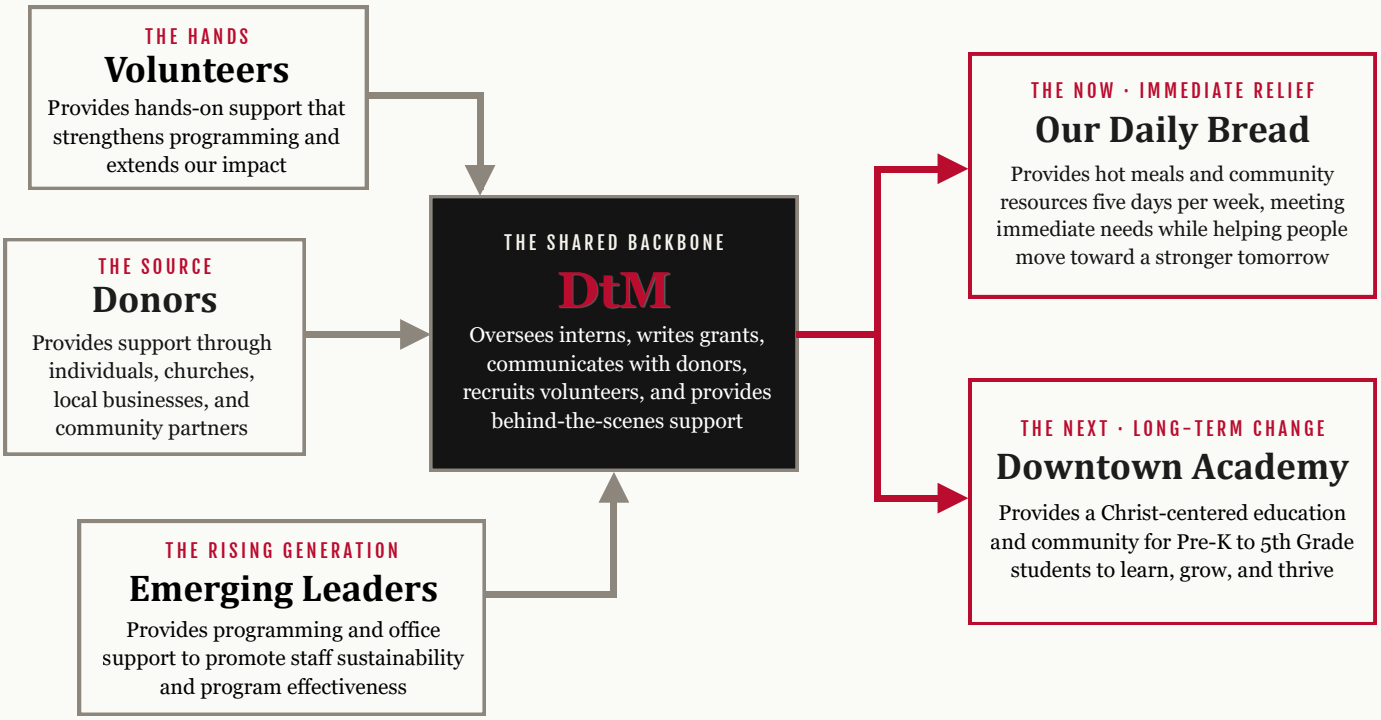
Real impact means caring for people in the present while also investing in what can shape a stronger future. **Downtown Ministries** strives to do both: meet urgent needs and build lasting opportunity, because a community's health depends on both.

23 YEARS

1 COMMUNITY

For 23 years, Downtown Ministries has served the Athens community, growing and adapting to meet the needs of the people around us. As those needs have evolved, so has the way we serve, expanding into the programs, people, and partnerships that make up Downtown Ministries today.

HOW IT ALL MOVES THROUGH ONE SYSTEM



Our Daily Bread responds to hunger today. Downtown Academy invests in what's possible tomorrow. Together: one complete response that would not be possible without those who support us.

"We exist to change souls."

— BETTY BOOKER

Director of Operations at Our Daily Bread · Downtown Ministries

DOWNTOWN ACADEMY

THE NEXT · LONG-TERM CHANGE

IMPACT REPORT
2026

MORE THAN A CLASSROOM

Every school day shapes a student's future, *but education is about more than academics.*
At Downtown Academy, students find more than a classroom. They find teachers who know them, a community that believes in them, and opportunities to grow into the leaders they are called to be.





ENROLLMENT AS TRAJECTORY

47.8%

Increase in enrollment between the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

ACADEMIC GROWTH

39%

Students in the 2025-26 academic year who started the school year reading a year below their grade level, but finished the year at or above grade level.

THE SCHOLARSHIP EQUATION

97%

Percentage of tuition covered for Downtown Academy families by Downtown Ministries and its donors.

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE LEADER

"Downtown Academy is committed to serving our community by educating the *whole* child—**mind, heart, and spirit**. We believe every child is created by God with purpose and equipped with gifts that can be used to make a difference in the world. **Through strong academic instruction, intentional character development, and spiritual growth, we strive to cultivate students who pursue excellence, walk in faith, and lead with integrity and compassion.**

That same vision extends through the Downtown Ministries **Emerging Leaders Internship Program**, where we partner to develop leaders who are **grounded in faith, guided by character, and prepared to serve others**. Our work is about more than preparing students and Emerging Leaders for success; it is about equipping them to answer God's call, use their gifts, and become servant leaders who strengthen their families and their communities."

—Dr. Xernona Thomas
Head of School



DOWNTOWN ACADEMY

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

THE NEXT · BEYOND THE BELL

IMPACT REPORT
2026





ACADEMIC SUPPORT

4/5

Number of weekdays where there is a tutor present at ASP to assist students with homework and areas of challenge.

WHAT AN AFTERNOON HOLDS

Homework, Tutoring, Good News Club, Garden Club, Sign Language Club, Dance Club, time playing outside, and so much more!

DAILY REACH

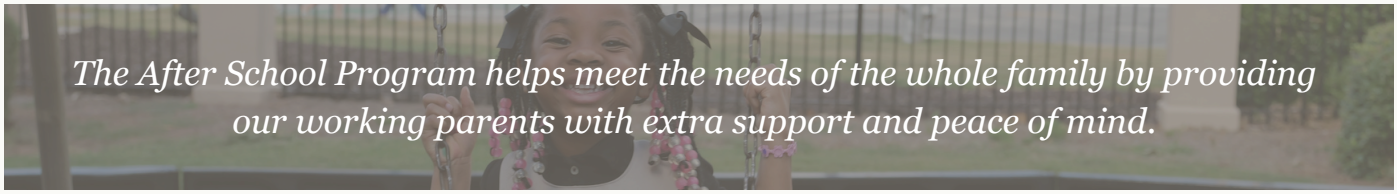
84%

Percentage of students who regularly attended the After School Program for the 2025-2026 school year.

A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO BECOMING

"Since joining DtA last year, What I enjoy the most about the After School Program is getting the opportunity to **build relationships** with all students and **watching them flourish** into confident young leaders! ASP is impactful for the students because it provides great **mentorship** and positive relationships while supporting **academic growth**."

—**Taylor Freeman,**
Director of the After School Program



DOWNTOWN SPORTS

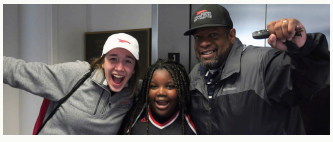
After school, students have the opportunity to join our **basketball team** and **cheer squad**, gaining new skills while also learning about team work, resilience, and encouragement.

ALL-STAR HONORS

3

Number of Falcons on the girls basketball team that were chosen to play in the All-Star Games









GROWING IN SKILL AND CHARACTER

"One of my favorite takeaways from the season was at the last practice. I asked if anyone would like to share one thing they improved on. I saw hands raised and before I knew it, **they were complimenting their teammates rather than themselves.** They saw growth in *other* players and felt the need to give them each a special shoutout. This shift showed me how they grew to **encourage one another and find the value of being a team**."

—**Katie Schwind,**
Girls Basketball Coach

LUNCH BUDDIES

THE NEXT · ONE TABLE AT A TIME





STUDENTS

88%

Percentage of eligible students who partnered with a mentor for the 2025-2026 school year.

COMMUNITY REACH

46

Volunteer mentors from the community who participated in the Lunch Buddies Mentorship Program last school year.

THE MENTOR GOAL

81%

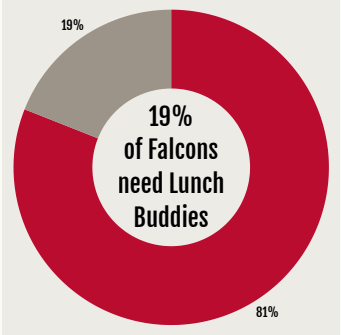
Percentage of eligible students who have been partnered with a mentor this academic year. ***Our goal is 100%.***

THE POWER OF CONSISTENCY

For **five years**, one Lunch Buddy mentor has walked alongside a student who joined Downtown Academy at the beginning of her elementary school journey. When they were first paired, the student was timid and had much to learn. **Today, as a fifth grader, she has grown into a confident, compassionate, and capable leader**.

That transformation is the result of a strong support system at home, at school, and through programs like Lunch Buddies. **Throughout their five years together, her mentor has gone above and beyond to make her feel known, valued, and loved while encouraging her to become the strongest Godly leader she can be**.

The consistency of this relationship has provided something invaluable: a trusted, steady presence throughout her school experience. **What began as a Lunch Buddy partnership has become a lasting relationship that will continue far beyond the classroom**. It is a powerful example of how consistent mentorship can shape a student's confidence, character, and future.



WHY IT MATTERS

"Lunch Buddies is a mentoring program within Downtown Ministries that partners with community leaders to empower students at Downtown Academy to grow in leadership."

—Caroline Madden,
Director of the Lunch Buddies Mentorship Program





CAMPERS, FULLY FUNDED

42

Number of current and former Falcons who attended in 2026, fully funded by donors.

FAITH DECISIONS

12

Number of students who decided to follow Christ while at Camp Grace this year.

RETURNING CAMPERS

32

Number of campers who returned to Camp Grace after going last year.

THE STORY OF THIS YEAR

One of our older Falcons attended Camp Grace for the first time this summer. Known for his laid-back personality and ability to make others laugh, it wasn't always easy to know what he was thinking or how much he was taking in throughout the week.

On Thursday night, Camp Grace presented the gospel and gave campers an opportunity to follow Jesus. **He became emotional as he made the decision to accept Christ.** He shared that **he finally understood the difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him**.

That week at Camp Grace became **the beginning of a new journey as he started growing into the man of God he continues to become today**.

"At Camp Grace, our students finally start to **connect the pieces** of what they learn about God at home and school and make it go

from
HEAD knowledge
to
HEART knowledge."

—**Caroline Madden,**
Fourth Grade Teacher

WHY IT MATTERS

Summer is when the gap grows widest, but Camp Grace is how it doesn't.

A WEEK OF COMMUNITY. A WEEK OF BELONGING. A WEEK TO BE A KID. A WEEK TO GROW CLOSER TO GOD.

OUR DAILY BREAD

THE NOW · IMMEDIATE RELIEF

IMPACT REPORT
2026

MORE THAN A MEAL

Thousands of meals have been served this year,
but the meal is just the beginning.

Around our tables, guests find more than food. They find people who know their names, resources that help them move forward, encouragement when life is difficult, and a community ready to celebrate their victories alongside them.



A GROWING NEED

7.7%

Increase in meals served from 2025 to 2026

MEALS AS CONSISTENCY

2023: 34,670 Meals Served
2024: 38,319 Meals Served
2025: 38,615 Meals Served
Jan-Sept 2026: 29,556 Meals Served

41,588 Meals Projected for 2026

OUR SUPPORT

90%

Monthly Meal Sponsor spots filled for 2027 so far

A PLACE TO *Be Known*

ODB is a place where people can be seen, heard, and reminded that their lives have value.

- **Meal sponsors** returning month after month
- **Emerging Leader Interns** who start conversations and build relationships
- **Volunteers** who remember names
- **Staff members** who notice when someone has not been there in a while

because it all starts with someone willing to show up

A PLACE TO *Move Forward*

Impact often looks like a next step. This year, we celebrated with guests as they experienced real progress toward stability.

"I'M HOME."
One guest received the keys to their own home after a long season of instability.

"I'M MOVING FORWARD."
One guest received employment AND transportation: two key pieces of building stability.

"I'M RECOVERING."
One guest reached six months in recovery and celebrated this milestone with us.

A PLACE WHERE *Community Connects*

Our dining room is more than a place to eat. It is an intersection of people, needs, resources, and relationships.

- **SPIRITUAL SUPPORT**
  - Prayer, Praise & Worship, and Bible Study
- **PRACTICAL CARE**
  - Haircuts, nails, legal assistance, health resources. and more
- **HUMAN CONNECTION**
  - Honest conversations, encouragement, and people who listen









MORE THAN A MEAL

OUR DAILY BREAD · CONTINUED



At Our Daily Bread, we are proud to provide more than a meal. We offer connections to housing, employment, healthcare, legal advice, haircuts, hygiene items, spiritual nourishment, a listening ear, and so much more.

RESOURCE HUB

2026 SO FAR:

10+

*ODB has participated in **10+ community events** that seek to provide employment or additional resources to our guests*

25%

*Approximately **25% of our ODB guests** who attend career fairs gain employment as a result*

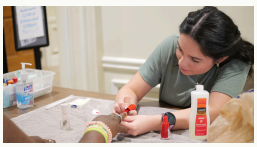
20+

*ODB has established **20+ community partners** who offer resources to our guests on a regular basis*

5+

*On average, **5+ ODB guests** attend our ODB Bible Study each week and most are consistent returners*











"I've went to Bible Study every week that I've been able to go. **It gives me the strength to keep going every week**, even when things are rough and I don't feel like keeping going."

—**Regular Guest,**
Our Daily Bread

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

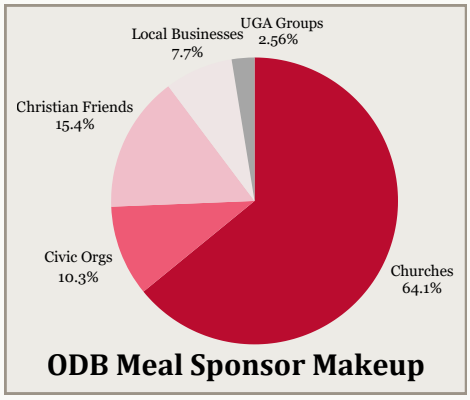
Piedmont Nurses
UGA Law School
UGA Pharmacy
Family Connection of Athens
UGA Campus Kitchen
Hearts for the Homeless
Life Church
Gauld Family
Mercy Health Center
Goodwill
Food Bank of Northeast Georgia
Advantage Behavioral Health
ACC Homeless Coalition
ACC Emergency Shelter
People in Recovery
Athens Wellbeing Project
Jane Smith - Nail Service
Aleah Crane - Nail Service
Backpack Project
Street Love Ministries

ODB MEAL SPONSORS

THE COMMUNITY BEHIND THE TABLE

Every meal begins with a community willing to serve.





ODB Meal Sponsor Makeup

2026 MEAL SPONSOR ROSTER

Alpha Chi Omega
Athens First Baptist
Athens First Presbyterian
Athens First United Methodist Church
Backpack Project
Caleb Tingle Gang
Catholic Center
Chapelwood United Methodist
Character Building Construction
Christ the King Ghana Methodist Church
Clarke County Church of Christ
Classic City Bank
Classic City Lions Club
Covenant Presbyterian
Eaton Corporation
Emmanuel Episcopal
First African Methodist Episcopal
Friends of Carl
Good Shepherd Presbyterian
Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
Jefferson First United Methodist
JP Marine Corps League
Kiwanis Club
Life Church
Milledge Avenue Baptist (Spaghetti Guys)
Miracle House
Oconee Street United Methodist
Prince Avenue Baptist Church
Redeemer Presbyterian
Rhema Christian Fellowship
Rotary Club of Athens
Seventh Day Adventist Church
St. Gregory Episcopal the Great
The Miller Team
The Richt Gang
Tuckston United Methodist
Watkinsville First United Methodist
5 Points Church

THE HEART OF OUR DAILY BREAD

Every person who serves at ODB has a story. Through conversations with our meal sponsors, we hear why they serve, what keeps them coming back, and what ODB means to them.

PODCAST COMING 2027



EMERGING LEADERS

INTERNSHIP · THE RISING GENERATION



THE RUNNING TOTALS

67 Emerging Leaders
110 Internship Semesters
$163,816.17 in federal funding through UGA

WHAT THEY GAIN

Hands-on nonprofit experience, professional skills, mentorship, confidence, leadership development, a deeper understanding of service, and a clarity about their purpose

WHERE THEY GO

14+

Emerging Leaders have gone on to work in nonprofits, including many whose careers shifted toward nonprofit work after their time at Downtown Ministries

EMERGING LEADER → STAFF

"Downtown Ministries is an organization **you never want to walk away from**. It was an unexpected blessing that **genuinely changed my life**."

A CURRENT EMERGING LEADER

"Interning with DtM has **truly changed my life**. Serving my community while developing professional and leadership skills and forming meaningful connections with interns, staff, ODB guests, and DtA students has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this internship. My time with DtM has made me want to remain a valuable part of the team and **continue serving long-term**."

EMERGING LEADER ALUMNI

"I left with more than professional experience, I gained a **deeper understanding of the kind of person I want to be** and how I want to serve others."







A MUTUAL INVESTMENT

"This internship invests in both our ministry and the rising leaders in our community. We equip students to lead with skill, experience, and a heart for service while their creativity and perspectives **challenge us to pursue greater impact**. We would not be where we are today without those who choose to serve alongside us."

—**Wren Durden Woody,**
Director of the Emerging Leaders Internship Program

VOLUNTEERS

THE HANDS THAT CARRY BOTH



AT THE TABLE · ODB

500+

2025 saw more than 500 unique volunteers serve at Our Daily Bread

ONE DOOR IN · GIVEPULSE

SERVE WITH US

BEYOND THE BELL · DtA

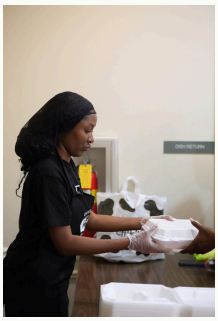
250+

2025 saw 250+ monthly volunteers thanks to our mentors, tutors, Lunch Buddies, and ASP partners

SERVICE TO SEEKING: FROM VOLUNTEER TO EMERGING LEADER

"Volunteering at ASP gave me the opportunity to experience the **close-knit community** and **significant impact** of Downtown Academy first-hand. This experience inspired me to pursue the **Emerging Leaders Internship**, where I became more involved with Downtown Ministries, built meaningful connections, and gained valuable experiences serving the Athens community."

—Caroline Alligood,
Downtown Academy Volunteer and Summer 2026 Emerging Leader










*Since 2021, Downtown Ministries has partnered with WFTK to expand opportunities for students through **golf instruction paired with life skills development**. Each year, Falcons gain more than athletic ability. They develop resilience, patience, focus, and discipline that shape them both on and off the course.*

$40,000+ raised for DtM since 2021

first tee athens

*Through our partnership with First Tee Athens, our DtA Falcons participate in **golf instruction during physical education classes**, learning the fundamentals of golf while strengthening the character traits they practice in the classroom.*

Resuming in Spring 2027

GEORGIA GOAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

*Through the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, you can redirect a portion of your state income taxes to provide scholarships for Downtown Academy students, at **no extra cost to you**. Your contribution helps more students access a Christ-centered, academically excellent education, while **you receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit** in return.*

$4.5 million received since 2015

GEORGIA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP
ACCESS. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.

*Families at Downtown Academy can benefit from the Georgia Promise Scholarship, an education savings account program that **helps cover tuition and other education-related expenses**, making a Downtown Academy education more accessible to more families.*

$40,000 received since 2025

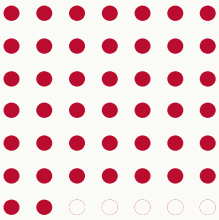
THANK YOU, ATHENS

To this year's meal sponsors, volunteers, and staff: thank you. Every meal served, every classroom hour, and every early morning came from your hands. This was a great year because you carried it — and the year ahead is already asking for you.









44/49

MONTHLY MEAL SPOTS FILLED

TO OUR MEAL SPONSORS

You filled 44 of our 49 monthly serving slots this year. Every plate at Our Daily Bread had a table behind it because you set it, month after month.

ODB DtA DtM

TO OUR STAFF

You carried Our Daily Bread, Downtown Academy, and the Executive Office every day of the year. Before the first guest arrived and after the last student left, this year ran on your hands. Your work may be behind the scenes, but its impact was seen everywhere.



1,700+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

You gave more than 1,700 hours across Our Daily Bread and the After School Program in 2025, filling nearly 400 shifts. From breakfasts and lunches to Lunch Buddies and tutoring, the same hands kept showing up all year, and it showed.

A YEAR CARRIED TOGETHER

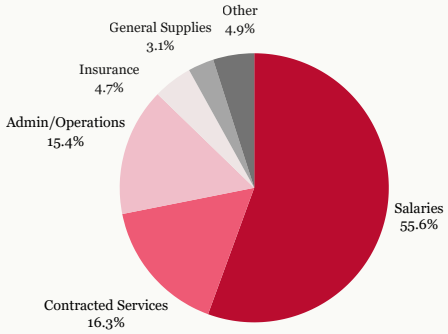
What happened this year was never the work of one person. It was the result of people choosing, again and again, to show up, serve, give, and make room for someone else. ***Thank you for being part of what made this year possible. We look forward to building what comes next, together.***

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS

STEWARDSHIP · EVERY DOLLAR, ACCOUNTED FOR

Downtown Ministries FY26 Expenses

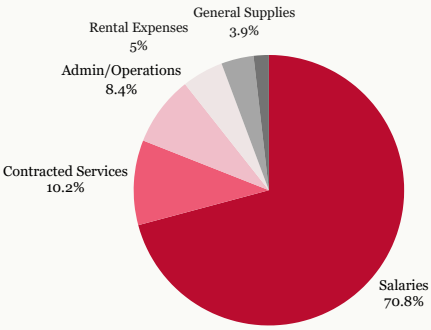
Total: $581,183.15



- Contracted Services include part-time employees
- Admin/Operations include accounting fees (17.8%), utilities (9.4%), and advertising/publishing (7.5%)
- Insurance includes Liability (43.7%), Worker's Compensation (26%), and Disability (18.6%)
- General supplies includes apparel (49%) and materials (27.6%)

Downtown Academy FY26 Expenses

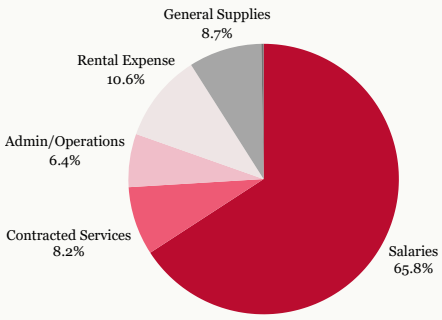
Total: $879.859.37



- General Supplies include materials (36%), curriculum (23%), food (15.8%), and apparel (14.7%)
- Rental Expense increased to $5,000 per month in August 2026
- Admin/Operations includes vehicle expenses (10.2%)
- Contracted services include ASP workers, substitute teachers, and consultants

Our Daily Bread FY26 Expenses

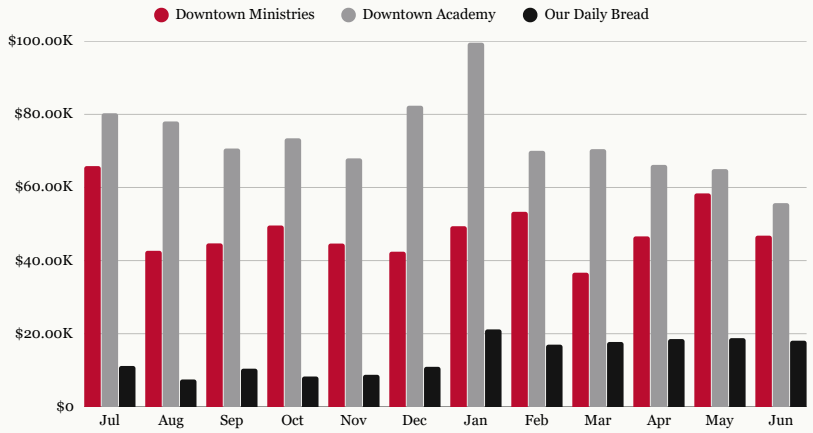
Total: $168,595.03



- Contracted Services include part-time employees
- Rental Expense increased to $1,750 per month in January 2026
- General Supplies include food (52%) and materials (37%)

FY26 Expenses by Month

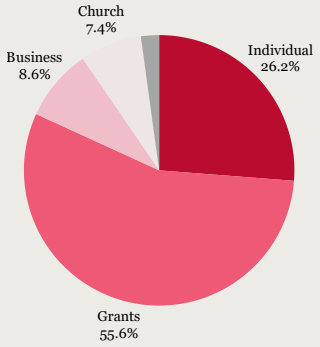
Total: $1,629,437.55



We believe in stewarding every dollar with care, integrity, and purpose. Thank you for trusting Downtown Ministries to put your generosity to work in our community.

FY26 Donations - DtM, DtA, ODB

Total: $1,563,741.24



62% of our grant funding comes directly from Georgia GOAL

13% of our grant funding comes directly from the Athens-Clarke County Community Partnership Program for ODB

Our **second largest source of funding** comes from our **individual donors!**

THE 2027–28 BLUEPRINT

WHAT COMES NOW · WHAT COMES NEXT · HOW WE GET THERE

What you've read in this report started as goals on a page like this. Next year's report is still unwritten. Here is where it begins.

OUR DAILY BREAD

We aim to build a consistent team of staff and volunteers, strengthen community partnerships, and expand needed resources to the community we serve.

DOWNTOWN ACADEMY

We hope to increase student academic achievement, nurture a strong Christ-centered spiritual foundation, and equip students to use their gifts, talents, and character to serve and positively impact their community.

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES

We aim to expand our reach and grow our community of supporters, volunteers, and Emerging Leaders as we deepen our impact across Athens.

"Come close, because it's deep. Come in and see and feel. That changes things."

— BETTY BOOKER





GIVE TODAY

SCAN HERE OR GO TO DOWNTOWNMINISTRIES.ORG TO GIVE TODAY

GET INVOLVED

SCAN HERE OR GO TO GIVEPULSE.COM TO VOLUNTEER WITH US

GIVE · SERVE · INVEST

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EMERGING LEADERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM