

Soup Scoop

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The mission of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is to feed the hungry of our community regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. We welcome all volunteers to this service who share an unconditional positive regard for every human being. We provide a safe, respectful, and inviting environment in an atmosphere of hope and dignity.

Daily Bread is an entirely volunteer run organization. Founded in 2009, Daily Bread serves a hot lunch out of the facilities of New Covenant Fellowship at 124 W. White St., Champaign. Lunches are served M-F from 11:00-12:30. Sack lunches and coffee are served from a mobile van on weekends. We look forward to the day when we will serve lunch at our new home at 118 N. First Street.

A young girl was walking along a beach where thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she picked it up and threw it back into the ocean. A man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? There are thousands of starfish! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, "Well, I made a difference to that one."

Hunger is a big issue in our county, in our state, in our country and in the world we live in. According to Hunger in America, one in seven households in America (14%) are food insecure, and 5.6 % of ULS households have very low food security. In Champaign County alone, according to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, 1 in 7 adults in our community are hungry, and 1 in 5 children under the age of 18 are hungry. These people who struggle daily with food insecurity are the guests whom we see every day at Daily Bread.

We are well aware at Daily Bread that we can't solve the huge problem of hunger in the world. But we also know that for the guest who says, "Daily Bread is a place where you come in hungry and you leave full," we are making a difference to him. We know that for the young mother who tells us that she brings her children to Daily Bread because she knows that at Daily Bread they will get fresh fruit and vegetables that she can't afford to buy for them, we are making a difference for her and her children. We know that for the two hundred or more individuals who are our guests at lunch every day, we are making a difference to them.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." Here at Daily Bread we know that we are only making a very small impact on a very big problem. But every day we greet our guests with a smile, we try to serve an inviting, tasty, and nutritious meal, we top our desserts with a dollop of whipped cream, and we decorate our tables with flowers. We try our best to make a difference to every guest who comes through our door.



Building Update

What a Difference Our New Home will Make!

As most of you know, over a year ago we concluded that Daily Bread had outgrown the space at New Covenant Fellowship where we have been serving those tasty meals for the last seven years. We were delighted when we were able to purchase the old Emerald City building at 118 North First Street in Champaign for our new home. After a very successful fundraising campaign (thanks to the generosity of so many of you!), we were able to raise enough money to begin renovations to better suit the needs of our cooks and our guests.



Many of you are probably wondering if we are now serving those delicious meals out of our new facility. Well, the answer is, “Not yet, but soon, very soon!” We currently are still serving those meals out of New Covenant, but we are guardedly optimistic that in the next few months we will be serving our guests seven days a week at our new home on First Street.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Barber and DeAtley Construction has begun work at the new site. (We are incredibly grateful for the local contractors who bid on this project and are just sorry that we couldn't hire every one who bid.) Thanks to the hard work of our building gurus, architect Gaylord Swisher, DBSK Board President Bob Goss, and DBSK Maintenance Chairman Henry Szujewski, we are well on our way to a new home. At this time the initial gutting of the building is done, the inside of the building is down to the bare studs, and the framework for the new kitchen is in place. In addition, most of the

preliminary electrical and plumbing work is completed, and the new floor is in. Currently the work of enclosing the original patio is taking place, and soon the actual inside renovations will begin. The good news is that, even though we are renovating an older building, there were **NO MAJOR SURPRISES** during the first phase of the project. Whew! The even better news is that the project is basically on schedule for a fall completion. Yeah! And the best news is that we were recently awarded an \$80,000 grant from the City of Champaign's Redevelopment Incentive Program to help with construction costs. Double Yeah!

Every day volunteers, supporters, and guests ask when we are moving. One guest, a woman who has been a regular Daily Bread diner for years worries that she will miss the moving date and asks us almost daily if this is the day, if she has come to the right place. We assure her that we will tell her our moving date as soon as we know it and that we will always make sure that she finds her way to our new home.





We want to make the same assurance to all our volunteers and to all of you who have supported us and made this new building possible. We will let you know a moving date as soon as we know it. We will send you all an invitation to a Grand Opening Party. And we will make sure that you will always be welcome in our new home!

One more thing! While we have raised enough money for the remodeling costs, the ongoing expense of feeding over 200 hungry guests doesn't go away. Our doors will remain open at New Covenant, and we will continue feeding our guests until the very day that we open the new doors on First Street. It costs us \$13,000 a month to operate, and that cost may increase a bit in the new building. So, please continue to donate and support our mission of feeding the hungry of our community. As an organization that operates solely with volunteer labor and on donated funds, we will always use your generous donation in

the most frugal and efficient way. So please continue to join with us in making a difference for the hungry of our community.

We are also in the process of buying new kitchen equipment for the new facility. If you would like to donate by purchasing a piece of equipment, please check out our equipment needs on our website—www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com

Upcoming Backpack Giveaway... Making a Difference This Winter



We're not sure right now exactly when or where it will take place, but we do know for sure that there will be a Daily Bread Backpack Giveaway again this year during the Christmas Season. Once again, we will be collecting backpacks filled with cold weather items to give to our guests. For many of our guests, this backpack will be their only present. We will NOT be giving out children's backpacks this year. Last year we gave away 800 backpacks to men and women in our community. Filling a backpack is a gratifying activity for families, for groups, for friends. And the backpacks really do make a difference for the guests who receive them. We'll have more information in our November newsletter, but we want to give you a heads up since right now there are lots of local sales on backpacks!

So Many Ways People Make a Difference

1. Second Wind Running Club brought in baked beans, potato salad, soft drinks, candy, pretzels, cookies, chips, tortilla shells, pretzels, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, goldfish, nuts, etc.
2. Carle Hospital donated an astonishing number of trays packed with ham/turkey slices wrapped in lettuce, which we served individually. Colorful "Asian Salad," redolent of soy sauce and other spices, supplemented the meal. Thanks, Carle!
3. To the delight of our guests, Papa Del's has been sending us their pizzas that were ordered but not picked up. Volunteer Joe Finnerty is holding just one of the many pizzas that are currently waiting to be served in our freezer.
4. Each week Beth Woodside, a weekend volunteer, brings two small boxes of books to give away. Most Sundays about half the adult and all of the children's books are gone. According to Beth, "I tell people they can bring them back or not...just don't throw them away. And I take special requests!" Jim Hiller, a Tuesday



volunteer, brought in children's books left over from the annual St. Matthew garage sale.

Thanks to Beth and Jim

for realizing that our guests hunger for more than food.

5. Once again Kappa Kappa Gamma Alums chose Daily Bread as the recipient of their proceeds from their annual spring flower sale.

6. We have been blessed this summer with a wealth of fresh vegetables that appear daily at our back door

from local farmers and gardeners. We are also grateful to the Farmer's Market which donates produce. Our cooks are finding creative uses for this bounty, and our guests are dining healthy this summer.

7. In 2015, after storms caused a shortened Illinois Marathon, the Marathon committee donated lots of leftover bananas and granola bars to DBSK and we were very grateful. This year the Illinois Marathon, as part of their philanthropic work, gave us checks totaling \$4,484! That's 8,560 meals. Thanks Mike Lindemann and Jan Seeley and the rest of the Illinois Marathon committee!

8. Thanks to Illinois American Water for their generous donation of collapsible, reusable water bottles for our guests. They were lifesavers on these very hot summer days.

9. A special thanks to the three Empty Bowls Benefits for Daily Bread! The Empty Bowls event at Silvercreek Restaurant raised over \$9,000 for DBSK which translates into 18,000 meals at the soup kitchen. Thanks to Allen Strong at Silvercreek and to the hard working



committee of Susan Garner, Linda Weiner, Stephanie Sutton, Colleen Freund, and Ellen



Harms for putting together an amazing event. The locally handcrafted bowls were lovely, the soup was delicious, and the rain did not prevent people from coming out and supporting our mission.

The Champaign Central High School Art Department and Culinary Department also hosted an Empty Bowls event. The student-made bowls were charming, and the student-made soup was very tasty. The \$700 proceeds will buy food for the guests of the soup kitchen for a week.

And the Art students at the High School of St. Thomas More also hosted an Empty Bowls event with the proceeds going to Daily Bread.

Events like these Empty Bowls Benefits are what help keep the soup bowls at Daily Bread full of our own tasty soup.

10. Mary Pellizzari brought in a \$525 donation, money that was donated to Daily Bread during a movie theater showing of the religious documentary film “The Original Divine Mercy Image.”

11. A young girl and her dad stopped by DBSK during the lunch rush and told our greeter that they had something for us. Aditi, a student at Countryside School gave him an envelope. The father explained that she recently had a birthday and asked her friends to make a donation to DBSK instead of giving her a gift. The volunteer thanked them and asked them to come in to see the effect of Aditi’s thoughtfulness. After a quick look, they were on their way. Inside the envelope--\$202 in cash and checks! Happiest of birthdays, Aditi!!

12. Among our recent Guest Servers were Jim Hires of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, the Orange Krush officers, and several nuns from St. Matthew School.

13. Our Assistance Program was delighted to receive a \$10,000 grant from United Way and a \$3,500 grant from Urbana. The Assistance Committee helps guests with yearly bus passes, with state ID’s, and with drivers’ licenses. In addition we have a limited number of gift certificates for Payless Shoes for guests who are starting a jobs that require a specific type of shoe.

14. Champaign West Rotary very generously presented DBSK with a check for \$7,200 that they raised at their first ever “CU’s Got Talent” contest.



15. A special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 2174 for donating \$50 from their cookie sale. And thanks to Elizabeth Morley for donating the receipts from her garage sale.

16. Karen Pickard, chairman of our Speaker’s Bureau, spoke last spring to a class at St. Matthew School. Contact her at kkpickard@gmail.com if you are interested in having a DBSK volunteer speak to your group.

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Help Us Make a Difference!



**Any and all donations very gratefully accepted at:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648**