

Soup Scoop

Volume 26

March 2016

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.

“In a World Where You Can Be Anything, Be Thankful...”

Our hard working treasurer was surprised and touched as she opened envelope after envelope filled with donations to Daily Bread’s Building Fund to find so many handwritten notes that said, “Thanks so much for what you do,” attached to very generous checks.

Every day many of our guests at Daily Bread go out of their way to thank volunteers for a wonderful meal. Just yesterday, when a volunteer asked a guest if he enjoyed the meatloaf, he answered, “I’ve never had a bad meal at Daily Bread. I am so thankful that this place exists.” Our servers, our dish scrapers, the volunteers who hand out sack lunches, all are touched by the gratitude displayed by so many of our guests. (To be sure, we also have guests who grumble about the size of their slice of meatloaf, but the grumblers are the exception! Although that man who claimed to never have a had bad meal may have missed the day that we served tofu...)

Gratitude is a two way street. We volunteers at Daily Bread are grateful that we are able to be a part of this mission to provide food to the hungry of our community, and we are grateful for the fellowship we enjoy with our guests. And we are beyond grateful to everyone who has donated so very, very generously to our efforts both to feed our guests and to build a new facility to better serve the needs of the hungry of our community.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we have not only reached our fundraising goal of \$300,000 but that we have surpassed that goal!

We are so very grateful that so many of you have opened your hearts—and your checkbooks—in support of our mission!

So, where are we at with the building project? We had been resolute that we would not start building until we had cash in hand to pay for construction. As of the end of January we had even more cash than we had ever anticipated! Our long-term plans had always included a Phase Two, enclosing the attached patio, thus giving us more space for a larger waiting area and assistance office. Suddenly it was financially feasible to incorporate Phase Two into our initial construction.

Thus January and February found our architect revising plans. March finds us submitting those plans out to bid. April should find us with a contractor and a start date. And, hopefully, late summer or early fall will find us moving into our new home!

(BTW, that hardworking treasurer wants to remind everyone that, even though we've surpassed our fundraising goal for our new building, we still have our regular ongoing expenses. We still have to pay rent and utilities, garbage pickup, food, insurance, etc. It still costs us about \$400 a day, every day, to feed an average of 200 guests. So please keep those checks coming in.)

We're Thankful for All Those Backpacks!

It wasn't only all those generous checks that we were thankful for in December. We were also thankful for all the backpacks that came pouring in for our annual Backpack Giveaway! Every year we panic and wonder if we're going to have enough backpacks, and every year, just like the biblical loaves and fishes, backpacks arrive, and every guest leaves with a backpack. Every year we also worry about the weather, concerned that people will be forced to stand outside in long lines in a blizzard, waiting to get a backpack full of gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and other items to help them survive that blizzard! This year we were lucky. Our giveaway day was brisk but sunny. The sidewalks were clear. The lines were orderly, and we were able to hand out over 750 generously filled backpacks. The remaining backpacks were given away to guests who missed giveaway day.



Here's what backpack coordinator Pam Hagle had to say about the day:

"On behalf of all of our guests, I would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors who made our Backpack Giveaway such a HUGE success. I cry throughout this day every year and today was no exception. It is very humbling to pull up to Daily Bread at 8 a.m. and see a line of people waiting in the frigid cold to receive a backpack. Most had been there since before 7, and there was a rumor that a couple of people spent the night.

Volunteers passed out mittens to those in line as well as hot coffee and cookies. Santa entertained as usual, everyone had a smile, and everyone got a backpack.

I am so grateful to all of you who made this day possible. Whether you helped by donating supplies and backpacks, sifting through 900 backpacks, making 650 sandwiches, spreading the word to friends and neighbors, or saying a prayer that everyone would receive a pack, I can't thank you enough.



One of our guests, Jonathan, told me today that it is the volunteers and the spirit of Daily Bread that keep people coming back. The food is a bonus. I couldn't agree more."

We're Thankful for our Volunteers

Here at Daily Bread we are thankful for all the talented volunteers who devote so much time and energy to this endeavor. In our last Soup Scoop we gave special thanks to Dick and Stevie Bennett, our dedicated food procurer and treasurer, respectively. Today we want to thank Henry Szujewski, our maintenance chairman. Daily Bread serves a hot meal to over 200 individuals every weekday. That translates into lots of cooking, lots of pots and pans, lots of dishes. That also means that every day well over 200 individuals are using the building. What that translates to Henry are lots of calls for maintenance.

“Henry, the dishwasher’s not working again.”

“Henry, the icemaker is leaking.”

“Henry, the garbage is piling up outside and the garbage collector hasn’t come.”

“Henry, a toilet is clogged up again.”

“Henry, the pilot light keeps going out on the stove.”

“Henry, the backdoor lock doesn’t work.”

“Henry, I think I saw a bug!”

“Henry, a water pipe just broke, and the water company says we are under a boil order.”

Etc. Etc. Etc....

Henry doesn't have any special background in maintenance. His background, in fact, is in radio and TV. (He is responsible for the lovely Daily Bread film that can be found on the website. Something else we thank him for.) But he rises to each and every occasion and emergency and finds solutions to all our problems. He probably has a plumber and the garbage company on speed dial. In the case of the recent abovementioned boil order, Henry took charge when we were shut down for two days, arranging for the necessary draining of the dishwasher and ice machine and the rewashing of all the dishes, etc. (And congrats to the Thursday crew who actually rewashed all those dishes!)

Henry is much more than our own Mr. Fixit. He's also a whiz in the kitchen. He's the head cook on the Wednesday crew and notorious, along with his cohorts Andy, Judy, and Tom, for creating all sorts of delicious meals, although it may have been Henry's crew that came up with the tofu meal! It was definitely Henry's Wednesday crew that made hearty sack lunches for our guests when we couldn't open with a hot meal due to the boil order. And it was Henry and another volunteer that same Wednesday who, looking out on Champaign's only blizzard, decided to take sack lunches to the bus depot and pass them out to grateful travelers who were stranded in Champaign.

Part of what makes Daily Bread unique is that we have no paid staff, that all our donations go to service for our guests. It's unpaid volunteers like hard-working Henry that allowed us to provide more than 155,000 meals to our guests last year on a budget of around \$150,000.

Thanks, Henry Szujewski, a man of many talents, a man with a giant heart!



We're Thankful for All Our Community Support

1. **Art Mart's** move to Champaign has been a boon for Champaign, but it's also been a boon to DBSK. Art Mart is donating their day old bread and baked goods to us! Delicious!

2. Our guests also enjoy the wonderful donations of breads and desserts from **Panera** that arrive several times a week.

3. Iroquois Federal recently donated \$5000 toward a new dishwasher for the new building. (Henry is particularly thrilled, as are all our dedicated dishwashers.)

4. We are extremely grateful to **Morgan Powell** who organized a benefit concert for Daily Bread at the Esquire. A huge crowd enjoyed listening to Morgan Powell's *Traditional Jazz Orchestra*, Dorothy Martirano's *Almost A*, and *The Impalas with Bruiser and Donna*.



5. **St. Thomas More's art classes** sponsored an Empty Bowls Supper and donated \$1700 to Daily Bread. That is 17 days worth of meals. No empty bowls on those days.

6. **Sheila Lamb** held a Kendra Scott party and donated all the profits to Daily Bread.

7. **Holy Cross students** walk

over weekly bringing milk and fruit for our guests. They also collected lots of items for our Backpack Giveaway.

8. **Ruler Food** has been a loyal donor to DBSK, and once again we are grateful for their generous check.

9. **Peter Schmidt and his staff at UpClose Printing** have been great friends of DBSK in many ways: professionally handling all of our printing needs, helping our sometimes less than technologically gifted volunteers with computer and design issues, and, especially, designing for free the great brochure that provided detailed info about our plans for the new building.

10. Daily Bread was delighted to be one of the four non-profits that was a beneficiary of **Rotary West's** event, Champaign's Got Talent.

11. **CU Sunrise Rotary's** President **Ruben Chambers** presented a check to DBSK's Ellen Harms for \$2,225, proceeds from their Holiday Fruit sale.





12. DBSK was delighted to be the January Round Up Non Profit for **Common Ground**. We received a check for \$4,576.29, and we were thrilled to learn that this was the highest amount ever 'rounded up' at Common Ground! Thanks so much to all who rounded up their bills and supported the soup kitchen. And thanks to Common Ground for including us in this fundraiser!

13. We were delighted to have **Paul Wilson** from First Federal and a crew from **Busey Bank** as guest servers.

14. A special thanks to **Fed Ex employees** who provided sandwiches that were much appreciated by our weekend guests.

15. **Students at St. Matthew School** filled backpacks and decorated lunch bags for our guests.

16. **Campus Middle School for Girls** decorated lunch bags and made cookies for our guests.

17. **Clark Lindsay residents** donated scarves, hats, and mittens for our backpacks.



18. The Tuesday crew enjoys the monthly taco meal donated by **El Toro**. The Wednesday crew enjoys the monthly meal donated by **Piato Café**. The Thursday crew enjoys the monthly meal donated by **Arby's**. The Monday and Friday crews would love to be the monthly recipient of a donated meal!

19. Guests who are parents or grandparents of babies were delighted when **Marty Burke and Christina White** brought in baby clothes for a one-day giveaway.

20. **Champaign Rotary** donated \$5,700 for a reach in refrigerator for the new building.

21. Several weeks ago Thursday cook **Yvette** came into the kitchen a day early to begin preparing 50 pounds of beef for the next day's stew. 'Boy,' she thought, 'I wish

we had some carrots to throw in the stew, but we never get carrots.' To her surprise when she looked in the fridge on Thursday, there were 8 two-pound bags of carrots! Voila, beef stew with carrots for our guests. Small miracles happen every day at Daily Bread.

To volunteer, to book a speaker, to donate much needed silverware, to learn more about Daily Bread, please check out our website: dailybreadsoupkitchen.com

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
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The Latest Scoop

Thanks (in advance) for Supporting These Upcoming Events

1. Empty Bowls Annual Benefit and Raffle - April 6
Silvercreek Restaurant, 402 N. Race, Urbana from 3:30-6
A \$25 donation includes delicious gourmet soup and bread and a beautiful handcrafted bowl. All proceeds go to Daily Bread. For more information, see [facebook.com/cuemptybowls](https://www.facebook.com/cuemptybowls).

2. CU CROP Hunger Walk - April 10
Walk starts at 2:00 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. A share of the proceeds goes to Daily Bread. For more information or to register, go to cu-cropwalk.org.

3. Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Annual Flower Sale - April 28, 29, 30
At Indian Acres Swim Club. Proceeds go to Daily Bread. Thursday hours 12-4, Friday 10-5:30, Saturday 11-2.

