

Soup Scoop

Volume 28
November 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.

“...Oh, There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays...”

In the last newsletter we told you about a guest of the soup kitchen who asked us almost every day when we would be moving to our new home because she was scared that she would show up one day for lunch and we would be gone. And almost every day we reassured her that we would give her plenty of notice, that we would make sure that she would know where to find us when the time came. Well, happily, the time has come. We are delighted to be able to tell our worried guest—and all of you who have supported us in this endeavor—that we will be serving our very last hot meal at New Covenant on Wednesday, November 23. We will serve sandwiches out of the foyer at New Covenant for several weeks as we move our equipment and belongings into the new facility, get the new facility certified by Public Health and the city of Champaign, and train our loyal volunteers. And then, hopefully, by mid December, we will open the doors at 118 North First Street and finally be home!

Most of you remember that Daily Bread was formed seven years ago after St. Jude’s Catholic Worker House made the decision to close its longtime soup kitchen. Many of the Catholic Worker House volunteers remained committed to feeding the hungry of our community and Daily Bread was born. We knocked on a lot of doors trying to find a home before New Covenant Fellowship agreed to take us in. But their agreement was conditional. We began in September 2009 serving sack lunches out of the New Covenant foyer. Our mission expanded. New Covenant opened their hearts—and their kitchen and Fellowship Hall—and soon we were serving a hot lunch five days a week.



New Covenant has been a wonderful friend and partner for Daily Bread, but, because New Covenant is a church, its facilities weren’t available

to us on weekends. And our guests didn't suddenly stop getting hungry on weekends. We dreamed of having our own building, our own home, a place where we could serve a hot meal every day, a place with plenty of storage for all the donated food available to us. As the support in our generous community grew, we started saving money, and last year, the dream of having our own home became a reality when we were able to purchase the old Emerald City Bar on North First Street.

A year ago we asked you all to help us raise funds to renovate the new building, and your response was amazing! Today the equipment is being installed; the tile floor is almost completely laid. The sun is shining through our new windows. The walls are painted in warm, cheerful colors. Shortly after you read this, we'll be back in the hot meal business.

Daily Bread is a special place in many ways. We run entirely by volunteer labor. Volunteers plan the menus, cook the food, serve the meals, wash the dishes. Our treasurer is a volunteer. A volunteer writes this newsletter. Volunteers pick up donated food, shop at the food bank, keep the books, answer the phones, pay the bills, scrub out the freezer and refrigerator. All donated funds go directly to services for our guests. Daily Bread is unique in that we are supported by donations and by a few local grants. And Daily Bread is unique in that we ask no questions of our guests. We cheerfully feed whoever walks through our doors.

But most of all Daily Bread is special because it's a community, a place where we, guests and volunteers, come together, a home. Listen to our volunteers as they tell our stories:

"One of our guests on Friday was a frail, elderly man on crutches who was also visually impaired. Sitting down not far from where I was standing, he requested a volunteer to help him. I offered to bring him his food and gave him our incredibly long list of menu items—chicken or fish, crab cakes, BBQ ribs and tips, mashed potatoes, cucumber-onion salad, green beans, green salad, chicken cacciatore or enchilada soup, desserts, fresh fruit, and cold drinks. He was delighted with the choices and made his selection. As I set his tray down in front of him, I noticed he had put a small pile of salt, pepper, and sweetener packets on the table along with a crumpled dollar bill. Assuming that he hadn't seen the bill, I pointed it out to him. "That's for you," he said, smiling, "for being so kind." It took a while to convince him not to pay me. I didn't tell him that his gentle gratitude was my priceless gift." A Friday volunteer

"Today, a woman came in with a baby boy about a year old, maybe younger. She was not from the United States and couldn't speak English. I noticed that she was trying to feed the baby bites from her plate but he didn't like it and was crying. We had forgotten to offer her baby food or maybe she didn't understand what was being said. I brought out some of those baby food containers in the squirt pouches. As soon as that little boy saw what I had, he clapped his hands and laughed. At last, his kind of food! The mother couldn't thank me in English, so she kept giving me the 'thumbs up' sign. It made my day." A Thursday volunteer

In the words of Maya Angelou, "Home is a refuge, not only from the world but a refuge from my worries, my terrible concerns. The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." We at Daily Bread are delighted that this December we will open our new doors wide and welcome our guests to our new home—just in time for Christmas!!

“Pfft, I hate Christmas. It’s for children and families. Not for people like me...”



For the eighth year in a row it’s Backpack time at Daily Bread. DBSK will celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. We will NOT be giving out children’s backpacks this year. The Champaign-Urbana community is very generous to children at Christmas through projects like Shop with a Cop, Salvation Army Toy Store, etc. But the men and women we see daily are rarely remembered. For many, these backpacks will be their only presents. Because of the lack of shelter facilities in our community, these backpacks will be even more welcomed this year.

Backpacks will be given away on **Friday, Dec. 16** beginning at 10:00 am. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks. We’re assuming that we will need at least that many this year.

Backpacks should be stuffed with toiletries such as deodorant, hand lotion for hands chapped by the cold, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving cream, etc., cold weather items such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, tee shirts, long underwear, and regular underwear. Other items could include hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, fleece blankets, candy, gum, and food items. Because these packs will be a special gift for our guests, we are asking that all items be **NEW**. We are asking that all backpacks be new or nearly new as well. Because of space limitations, we can’t accept used clothing.

All backpacks should be labeled with the gender and size of recipient (i.e., Man-XL). Last year most of our guests, both men and women, requested at least a size Large, most preferred XL, and there is also a need for 2X and 3X bags for men and women.

Filled backpacks should be dropped off beginning the week of **Monday, Dec. 5** at Daily Bread, 124 West White, Champaign, during the week from 9-1. We would encourage you to use the back door when dropping off backpacks. Backpacks can also be dropped off at Ellen Harms’ (705 S. Elm Blvd. 356-2551) at Pam Hagle’s (713 S. Elm Blvd. 359-3245), or at Ruthann Evans’ (4414 Crossgate Dr. 398-5687). Please make sure that you leave your name when you drop off backpacks. Tax forms will be available.

Filling a backpack is a wonderful activity for families, grandparents and grandkids, church groups, book clubs, service organizations, scout groups, bridge clubs, social clubs, classrooms, etc. We are very grateful to everyone who participates in this annual project and brings some of the joy and magic of the season to our guests at the soup kitchen.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call or e-mail Pam at 359-3245 or phigle@aol.com. For more information, check out our website at www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com



“Christmas is Not So Much About Getting Presents as Opening Our Hearts...”

Every day at Daily Bread we see people and groups opening their hearts and bringing us gifts of food and other items. And we are always grateful!

1. We were sorry to see Atlanta Bread Company close (our favorite place for meetings and coffee!) but were happy when owner Ed Dye donated left over soup and paper products.
2. Classic Events Catering has begun bringing us unused items from their catering events. Their delicious dishes are much appreciated by both our cooks and our guests.



3. The entire staff at Windsor Road Christian Church spent a day with us and took over most of the responsibilities for a meal so that we were able to give regular volunteers a day off.

over early and setting up the dining room for us. One of the biggest downsides of our new home is that it's not walking distance from Holy Cross. :(

5. On a regular basis we get bread and desserts from Panera.
6. For the last few months we have opened our back door only to find gardeners standing with bags of fresh produce for our guests. Dada, from the Yoga Center brought us delicious organic pears. *(A collard green story. Collard greens with ham were a very popular dish one Friday. One guest had three brimming bowls of this dish, saying that the greens were just like those his grandmother made. He wanted to thank the chef in person. When Pat, the head cook, came out, the guest was astounded and burst out, "But you're not black!" Pat blushed with delight at the oblique compliment and responded warmly to the guest's big bear hug.)*

7. Three days a week volunteers head to Gordon Food Service (GFS) and bring back a vanload full of everything from fresh fruits and veggies to prepared salads to meats, cheese, etc. GFS is a big part of how we are able to feed our guests a nutritious meal every day.

8. McKinley Church and Foundation brought in over 200 delicious sack lunches. Our guests were delighted, as were our volunteers who for one day didn't have to pack those lunches.

9. Southside School brought us bottled water and buns left over from an all-school event.

10. We enjoy the tasty food donated by Common Ground and Espresso Royale.





11. El Toro Restaurant on Neil donates a taco meal the 3rd Tuesday of every month. The Tuesday crew happily visited El Toro and toasted the restaurant with margaritas!

12. The sixth graders at St. Matthew' decorated lunch bags for our guests.

13. Cliff Maduzia and volunteers bring milk cartons and items from breakfast and lunch programs for Unit 4 Schools.

14. Caterer Raquel Aikman and Town and Country Catering donated left over tailgate food.

15. Andrew Vivian requested donations to Daily Bread in lieu of birthday gifts and also donated money from his summer job mowing lawns.

16. The Elm Boulevard neighbors donated \$138 from donations at their annual Cidar and Donuts on the Boulevard Celebration.

17. Hilary Potter, Walnut Tea Company owner, brought cookies, tea bags, and chocolates.

18. The Urbana Park District put on the play Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory this summer at Parkland and put out a tip jar for donations to Daily Bread. Result: #221.40!!

19. John Anderson, a special education teacher at Barkstall School, brought in fifty gift bags that students had assembled. Each cheerful red bag contained toiletries, a water bottle, some snacks, and a note from the student. Our guests were delighted with these gifts.

20. We continue to enjoy pizzas from Papa Del's that are ordered and then not picked up.

21. The Empty Bowls committee is already planning their annual event for April 2017.

22. An anonymous donor put DBSK's name on a raffle held by the Knights of Columbus in Rantoul. We were delighted to learn that we were the proud winners of half a hog!

23. Phil Keaggy performed a benefit concert at Faith United Methodist Church on October 14th with proceeds going to Daily Bread.



“Our world is full of amazing things!”

The Cubs won the World Series. **Amazing!**

We survived the recent presidential election. **Amazing!**

Our contractors finished our new building on time and on budget. **Amazing!**

The CU community provided great financial support for our new building. **Amazing.**

But...for us to continue feeding 200+ hungry guests every day, we need that support to keep coming and coming and coming!

Even with our creative cooks who manage to feed those 200

people for only \$100 a day, we still have garbage bills, utility bills, cleaning bills, printing bills, etc., etc. etc. It would be really **Amazing** if you would open your hearts--and your checkbooks--and make a generous donation to Daily Bread.

**Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
P.O. Box 648
Champaign, IL 61824-0648**



Save the Date!

**Daily Bread Open House
Sunday, January 7, 2017
118 North First Street, Champaign
2-4**

**Tour our new home.
Share our excitement.
See where the magic happens!**

**Help us keep the soup pots bubbling!
Any and all donations very gratefully accepted at:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648
or www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com**