

Soup Scoop

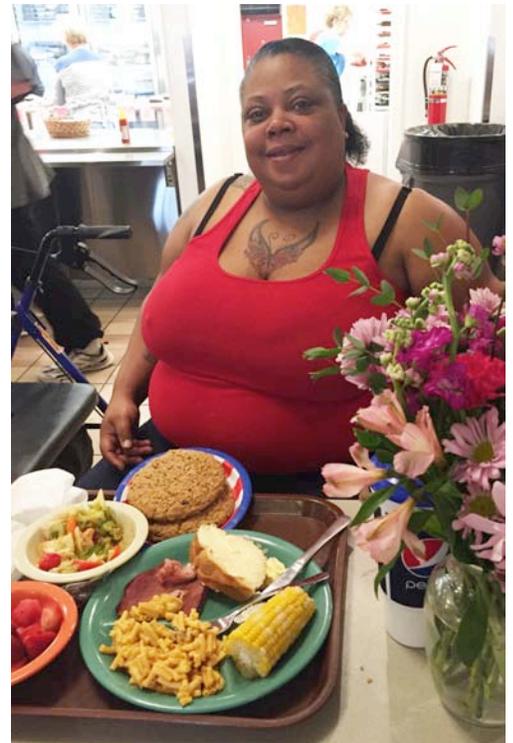
Volume 30
August 2017

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 seven days a week at 116 N. First Street, Champaign. Lunches are served from 11:00-12:30.

Twenty Facts You May Not Know (or Remember) about Daily Bread

1. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is now open at our new location at 116 North First Street in Champaign. We are happy to finally be serving a hot meal seven days a week. We start cooking at 7:30, open our doors at 10:30, start serving at 11:00, stop serving at 12:30, and finish cleaning up as quickly as we can.
2. We feed anyone who walks through our door; no questions asked, no sign-ins, no income checks. Some guests are homeless; some are disabled; some are employed at minimum wage jobs; some are lonely and come for company. Everyone is welcome at our table. Back when we used to be part of Catholic Worker House, Ellen McDowell, our esteemed leader, used to say, "We feed everyone because the last person in line could be Jesus." Today we say, "We feed everyone because the last person in line is just as hungry as the first person in line."
3. Everyone who works at Daily Bread is a volunteer. We have NO paid staff. All donations go directly to guest services, not salaries. And donations are ALWAYS welcomed.
4. The average age of our volunteers is a very spry 60+ (although some of us look very good for our advanced age).



5. Volunteers are welcome, especially young ones. If you are old and want to volunteer, you are encouraged to lie about your age.
6. Actually, to be completely honest, we do contract out for major janitorial services, such as mopping floors. (See #5 for explanation. We aren't quite as spry as we like to think.)
7. We are a very diverse group of volunteers--men, women, older, younger, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, other, agnostic, Republican, Democrat, liberal, conservative, apolitical, cheerful, grumpy...
8. We all share, however, a strong commitment to feeding the hungry of our community in an atmosphere of hope and dignity.
9. Our guests are a very diverse group as well--men, women, young, old, homeless, unemployed, employed, disabled, drug or alcohol challenged, cheerful, grumpy...

10. Since we have moved into our new home in January, our numbers have increased significantly. This summer we are serving well over 200 guests every day. Many days we serve well over 250. And many of the guests we serve are young children.

11. An average meal consists of an entree, a vegetable, potatoes, pasta, or rice, a tossed salad, often fresh fruit, a bowl of soup, a dessert, coffee, lemonade, milk, or juice. No one leaves Daily Bread hungry. Guests also leave with a sack lunch that can be saved for an evening meal. (It takes longer than one might think to make 250 bologna sandwiches.)

12. Amazingly, we are able to feed over 200 guests for a food cost of around \$100 a day! Even more amazingly, our sack lunches are our most expensive cost.

13. As of the end of July, we have served and passed out 91,000 meals in 2017!

14. Obviously, we couldn't do what we do without many sources of inexpensive and donated food. Thank you, Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Gordon Food Service, Hendrick House, CU Zero Percent, Panera, Espresso Royal, Columbia Street Roastery, Great Harvest, our Forrest/Fairbury friends, Piatto, Arby's, El Toro, The Ribeye, Urbana Farmer's Market, and many others, including everyone who knocks on our back door with donations.



15. Obviously we couldn't do what we do without our incredible cooks! The advantage of having an older volunteer crew is that we are blessed with having volunteers who have spent many years preparing wonderful meals for their families and now bring those years of expertise to our kitchen.

16. And obviously, we couldn't do what we do without the generous checks that arrive regularly and keep our dedicated treasurer

Stevie Bennett smiling! Although food donations keep our food bills low, we still have monthly utility bills, garbage bills, cleaning bills, insurance bills, security bills, etc., many of which have increased as we've moved to our new home and increased both our space and our serving days.

17. We also have an assistance program that helps guests with state ID's and birth certificates and also provides yearly bus passes to guests with demonstrated need. We gave out 108 bus passes last year to guests. Our RAP (Referral and Assistance Program) office meets with guests and refers them to other agencies in the community that can help with specific needs.

18. According to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank statistics, 1 in 7 adults in Champaign County struggles with issues of food insecurity, or hunger. 1 in 6 children struggles with issues of hunger. 22.6% of the residents of Champaign County, students excluded, live at or below the poverty line. We see the faces of the hungry in our community every day.

19. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is entirely supported by a few local grants and many, many individual donations. We get no federal or state money. Daily Bread is definitely a community endeavor-- a group of community volunteers, funded by a community of generous donors, feeding our community's hungry. We are so grateful for everyone who supports our mission!

20. Recently, a Daily Bread guest was overheard telling a friend on the phone that he was eating at a "five-star restaurant, the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen." It's a review like that that keeps our volunteers coming back, week after week, year after year. We feel blessed to be able to do what we do.



May the Force Be With Us...

When Daily Bread was serving hot lunches out of New Covenant Fellowship, we were fortunate to be located less than a block away from the main Champaign Fire Station. On numerous occasions when a guest suffered from a medical emergency, the nearby fire fighters were there immediately. It was very reassuring to our volunteers to know that help in an emergency was so close. (And I know that at least occasionally DBSK showed our appreciation by dropping off some extra desserts to our friendly fire fighters.)

We were sad to leave the Fire Station behind when we moved to our new location, but we were pleased to find that once again we had friendly and helpful neighbors, located as we are directly across the street from the Champaign Police Department.

Shortly after we moved in, Anthony Cobb, Chief of Police, and some colleagues walked over from the police station with several platters of fresh fruit for our guests. The fresh and luscious fruit came directly from a celebration held at the police station.

But that wasn't the last we saw of Chief Cobb and his lieutenants. Earlier this summer it was our pleasure to have ten police officers volunteer. Chief Cobb manned the front desk. Other officers unloaded donated food, served food to guests in line, scraped plates, helped with dishes, wiped tables, and interacted with our guests in a friendly manner. Then the police officers enjoyed a DBSK lunch before heading back across the street to the police station.

On the few occasions when we've had problems with unruly guests, the police have been quick to respond and have handled all incidents in a calm and professional manner. (And I know that DBSK shows our appreciation by dropping off extra desserts at the Police Station.)



We are Inspired by the Inspire Award!

Daily Bread was delighted to be the recipient of the Presence Covenant Medical Center's Inspire



Award, presented to Ellen McDowell and Bob Goss and all our loyal volunteers on April 4. According to Presence Covenant, "We give the award to a partner in the community that shows exceptional dedication to improving our community's quality of life and who helps to further our mission. Their mission to feed the hungry in our community is a vital asset to our residents, feeding more than 200 people a day. Their outreach efforts also served as a key inspiration to our Community Resource Center. Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a safe, respectful, and inviting environment in an atmosphere of hope and dignity

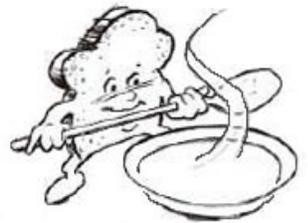
to our community." DBSK was very honored to accept this award and is inspired to work even harder!

So Many Things to be Thankful For...

1. Once again we are thankful to Champaign-Urbana Empty Bowls for sponsoring a benefit for Daily Bread. Silvercreek Restaurant and owner Allen Strong again generously provided the lovely setting and delicious soup for this benefit. Attendees of the event got to choose a lovely handmade bowl and enjoy a bowl of soup. The Empty Bowls committee of Susan Garner, Stephanie Sutton, Linda Weiner, Colleen Freund, and Ellen Harms are happy to announce that all expenses--food, bowls, etc.--were donated and every dollar of the almost \$10,000 raised went directly to the soup kitchen. Our DBSK cooks pride themselves on the quality of our soups, but the soup and the hospitality at Silvercreek were top notch.



2. Ellen McDowell, DBSK's founding mother, was recently honored to receive the University of Illinois YMCA's Leadership Award for Social Justice, a well deserved honor for a woman who inspires us with her wisdom, her heart, and her humility. In Ellen's words, "When you come to the soup kitchen the gap between the rich and the poor sort of fades for a few hours. We're all together; we're all friends. We greet each other; we know each other. People who are nameless on the street have a name. It endows people and I love that."



3. Ellen isn't the only acclaimed member of her family. Her brother David Attebury is a well known New York artist whose work has appeared in many magazines and galleries around the city. But his fame has also spread all the way to Champaign. When Daily Bread began back in 2009, Ellen asked her artist brother to create something with Soup and Bread ASAP. He quickly responded with the logo that has been a symbol of DBSK ever since.



4. Zeta Phi Beta Girls and their leader Dwania Turner brought in table decorations for the 4th of July meal.



5. The Illinois Marathon is an important event for Champaign, and it's also an important friend for DBSK in two ways. We were delighted to receive left over pasta, bananas, and energy bars from the event. And we were even more delighted to receive a generous check as part of the Marathon's giving back to the community platform.

6. Some people complain about losing socks in their dryers. We complain all the time about losing silverware! But Julie Elder, Jim Hiller, Johanna Harms, and Jeanne Sathre donated enough silverware to replenish our stock. And, speaking of socks, Urbana American Legion Post 71 Women's Auxiliary brought us heavy white socks filled with toiletries and snacks that they passed out to

very appreciative guests.

7. We were able to buy an industrial food processor with a No Child Hungry Grant from Arby's. It sure made slicing onions easy for Ruth on Thursday.

8. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank frequently surprises us with their offerings. We love it when they have fresh flowers to brighten up our tables. Recently our guests dined on a wedding cake for dessert that must have been ordered from a local bakery and never picked up!



9. DBSK was delighted to receive a very generous check presented by Mark Ballard from Champaign West Rotary from their fundraiser CU's Got Talent. The check will cover our food costs for two months. Thank you, Champaign West Rotary!

10. So many people and groups to thank for donated food! Papa Del's donated 73 pizzas in April. And since then, they've brought more. Food has come in from Faith United Methodist Church. Jane Plankenhorn and son brought items from St. Thomas More's

graduation. Donations have arrived from Classic Events, the Cake Artist, Delta Gamma Sorority, Kappa Delta Sorority, many U of I Residence Halls, fruit from Cameron Catering. Common Ground, Holy Cross students, Michaels Catering, and Pekara Bakery donated food. We've received lots of produce from the Farmer's Market--and volunteer Dick Bennett even got to ring the bell!



11. McKinley Presbyterian Church youth group brought in cookies they had purchased and tied up with bows. They also made cards for our guests.



12. Daily Bread was honored to be chosen by Maury Busboom, a local farmer from Royal, to be the recipient of an America's Farmers Grow Communities donation, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Mr. Busboom won the right to choose a local charity to receive a \$2,500 award. This donation will provide 5000 meals for the hungry of our community.

13. And, back to those creative cooks... Arby's donated a HUGE box of pork bellies to DBSK. The

Thursday cooks weren't sure how to cook them or even what exactly a pork belly was. But intrepid Catharine said that she would come up with a way to serve them. She made a pork belly stir-fry with loads of fresh vegetables and served it over rice with a sweet chili sauce. And it was a huge hit! Plates were empty, and a guest even asked for the recipe. Another DBSK triumph!

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



It's still summer, and the living is still easy, but Christmas is less than four months away. Daily Bread will once again give away filled backpacks to our guests at our annual Backpack Giveaway in December. More information will be available in our November newsletter or on our website, but there are bargains on backpacks right now. It's never too early to get back in the 'backpack spirit!'

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