

Soup Scoop

Volume 33
August 2018

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, nutritious lunch seven days a week at 116 N. First Street, Champaign. Lunches are served from 11:00-12:30 P.M. to anyone who walks through our doors.

**“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”
Ryunosuke Satoro**

It’s been a busy summer at Daily Bread, just like it was a busy spring, winter, and fall. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen operates seven days a week, twelve months a year (with the three exceptions of Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years Day). Every day we serve a tasty and nutritious hot meal to two hundred or more guests, and every day we offer each guest a sack lunch to take home for an evening meal. In 2017 that added up to 147,058 meals served. We served 14,441 meals in July, and we’re on course to increase the yearly number in 2018.

All those thousands of meals are prepared and served by volunteers. Over 200 volunteers, an ocean of volunteers, show up every week to make sure that the guests who arrive at Daily Bread leave well treated and well fed.

Obviously 200 volunteers don’t show up at Daily Bread every day. Instead, DBSK operates on a daily crew system. Each day of the week has its own crew chief and its own crew of volunteers. Each day plans its own menu, prepares its own meal, and does its own cleanup. Each crew has its own idiosyncrasies and unique ways of doing things. But, each and every day, many, many volunteers work together to provide the best possible meal for our guests.

Many of you have probably heard of the guest who insisted that we were wrong to call Daily Bread a soup kitchen. "You serve a lot more than soup," he said. "You're a full-meal kitchen." That guest was right. We serve hot entrees, vegetables, fruit, salads, soup, desserts, etc. And providing that full meal takes a lot of hardworking volunteers.

Here’s a photo gallery of just what all those volunteers do each day to make Daily Bread run! Here’s what all those volunteers were doing at Daily Bread on Tuesday, July 24th...



up 80 pounds of potatoes. Bev and Cindy add the perfect amount of seasoning to the potatoes before they pop them into the oven.

Our cooks arrive at 7:30. They’ve planned their menu the week before. But they also check the refrigerators to see what new donations may have come in that need to be used.

Tuesday’s menu—Sloppy Joe’s, oven baked potatoes, green beans, and black bean burgers as a vegetarian option. Sandy browns 60 pounds of ground beef. Karen cuts





Kathleen, our soup maker, arrives early and gets busy chopping, sautéing, stirring. We go through at least three large pots of soup a day, whatever the weather. Today's soups—creamy spinach, spicy chicken with okra, and cream of mushroom with wild rice. (Psst, don't tell Kathleen, but the creamy spinach was not a big hit! But our guests loved the other two soups.)

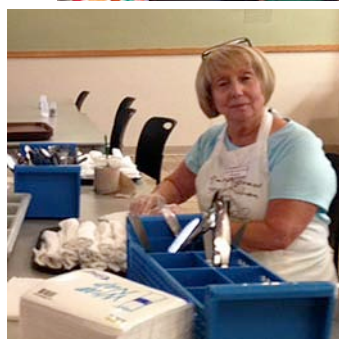
Tony and John, our salad makers, chop up lettuce, tomatoes, cauliflower, carrots, etc., for a delicious and healthy salad. John and Mary Ann cut up fresh fruit for a fruit salad. Strawberries, melon, grapes, pineapple! Yum! We have parents who show up just for the fresh fruit and vegetables, items hard to get on a limited budget.



Mary Kay and Sheila make and wrap 300 ham and cheese sandwiches and 25 peanut butter and jelly to go into sack lunches.



One of Joe's jobs is drinks. He makes the first pot of coffee, fills thermal jugs with lemonade and water, and puts orange juice and milk on ice. During these hot days we go through LOTS of drinks.



Gary takes down the chairs and wipes off tables, preparing the dining room for our guests.

Linda cuts 200 desserts, a favorite job. Dennie wraps 300 sets of silverware, not such a favorite job.



Ruth and Ellen are with Tem at the Eastern Illinois Foodbank picking up food for the rest of the week. Bill is on hand to unload the car when they come back.

Finally, it's 10:30; our doors open, and Crew Chief Charlie greets all of our guests with a cheerful word and a big smile.

Lunch is about to be served!

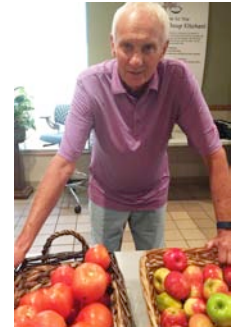




At 11:00 Karen welcomes our guests, makes a few announcements, then turns the microphone over to a guest who asked to say the daily prayer. He begins by asking the crowd, "How are you all doing today?" The crowd responds with a loud "Blessed." After his heartfelt prayer, multi-talented volunteer John sings a stanza of the African-American spiritual "Let Us Break Bread Together."



Volunteers on the service line greet guests with a smile as they hand out plates and offer guests their choices of salads, soups, and desserts. Skip, Mark, and John T check guests in, collect backpacks, and hand out sack lunches as well as other giveaway items. Officer Kelly Watson, part of the Champaign Police Department's Community Engagement Program, stops by and lends a hand.



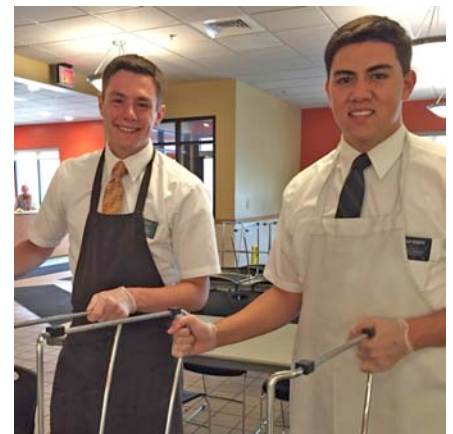
Gary and Linda keep busy scraping dishes, while John and Steve run the commercial dishwasher. It's a hot and messy job as more than 1200 items go through the machine every day. In the back, John T, Lisa, and Vevi scrape and clean the many pots and pans before they go into the dishwasher.



Jim is busy in the storage area, sorting and putting away all the food that keeps arriving. Today's donations include milk and fruit from Holy Cross staff, cucumbers and tomatoes from a friendly farmer who didn't want to leave his name, desserts, fruit, bread, and lettuce from the food bank and Gordon Food Service, and sweets and bread from Panera.

At 12:30 our doors are closed, the guests finish eating, but we're not done yet. Our Mormon friends, with other helpers, wash and sanitize all the tables and chairs and put up all the chairs. (What comes down must go up!) The kitchen and serving area are scrubbed down. Everything is ready for Wednesday's crew of volunteers and another day at the soup kitchen.

Whew! At the end of Tuesday, 288 guests walked through the door. With the help of 31 dedicated volunteers, we served a hot lunch to 247 adults and 22 children. We handed out 309 sack lunches. And we delivered a pan of left over Sloppy Joe's to the Champaign Police Department across the street. Another successful day made possible by an ocean of volunteers!



“Every Drop in the Ocean Counts...” **Yoko Ono**

Daily Bread is much more than just those 200+ volunteers who show up every day to prepare and serve a meal. Daily Bread is also the 3,377 donors who have generously contributed to our mission over the last nine years. We couldn't do what we do every day if those checks didn't continue to arrive. Although we pay no salaries, we do pay for food, utilities, insurance, supplies, etc., etc. We are grateful for every check, for every donor who supports us financially.

Mother Teresa once wrote, “We ourselves sometimes feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” Hunger is a huge problem in our community, in our country, and in our world. We are aware that what we are doing at Daily Bread is but a drop in the ocean of hungry people. However, there is satisfaction in knowing that, thanks to an ocean of caring volunteers and generous donors, more than 200 of our fellow citizens are well fed every day at Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

"What Is Any Ocean But a Multitude of Drops?"

It's not just volunteers and financial donors that make DBSK work. We are grateful for the many individuals and organizations that contribute to our mission in a myriad of ways. Here are a few...

1. CoreLife, a new health conscious restaurant, chose DBSK to receive ALL the profits from their preopening day celebration. \$8,157 was raised for DBSK, and we got a chance to try out CoreLife's delicious dishes!
2. The University of Illinois Accounting Club and the Women in Science and Engineering Club had a contest to see which club could collect the most canned goods for DBSK. The women claimed victory but DBSK was the real winner.



3. Rotary West's fundraiser *CU's Got Talent* highlighted some great local talent--and raised \$7000 for DBSK. We're singing the praises of Rotary West!

4. Emily Knox discovered that Facebook would hold a birthday fundraiser for her, so she asked her friends to donate to DBSK as a birthday present. She was delighted to learn that her friends donated \$1400 in honor of her birthday. Happy, Happy Birthday, Emily!!

5. Champaign Jewelers sponsors a charity of the month. They set out a vase for customers to donate to, and we were delighted to get the 'bling.'

6. CU Empty Bowls once again sponsored a fundraiser at Silvercreek Restaurant for Daily Bread. Thanks to Allen Strong, owner of Silvercreek, all the local potters who donated bowls, and the Empty Bowls committee of Stephanie Sutton, Linda Weiner, Susan Garner, Colleen Freund, and Ellen Harms, they far exceeded their goal of \$10,000! That will fill a lot of soup bowls at DBSK.

7. Art students at both Central High School and the High School of St. Thomas More also held Empty Bowls events and donated the profits to DBSK.



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Three More Things

1. Daily Bread will once again be giving away backpacks to our adult guests at Christmas. With the back-to-school sales currently going on, it's a great time to find bargains on backpacks. Christmas is (GULP!) less than 130 days away.
2. Due to changes at Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Daily Bread has not been able to buy meat there on a regular basis as we have in the past. We are searching for alternate sources of meat at a reasonable price. If you have any suggestions or contacts, please email Susan at cuhinesly@comcast.net.
3. Years ago we were delighted to receive a donation of a very gently used minivan. That minivan has served us faithfully as we pick up food donations all over the community. But it is beginning to feel its age. If you have a van or minivan that is in need of a new home, we would be thrilled to provide that home.



Help us keep our soup pot bubbling!
Cash donations always very gratefully accepted at:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648 or
www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com