

Soup Scoop

Volume 35
March 2019

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 to 12:30 pm to anyone who walks through our doors.

“Kindness is Like Snow; It Beautifies Everything It Touches...”
Khalil Gibran
(Or How DBSK Survived Winter and the Polar Vortex)

Winters are tough for our guests at Daily Bread. For the homeless, sleeping outside is life threatening, shelters are crowded, a couch or even a floor at the home of a friend or relative is hard to come by. Guests lucky enough to have a bed struggle with cold rooms and high utility bills. Guests without transportation try to keep warm standing on street corners waiting for a bus. Guests lucky enough to have a car often deal with dead batteries and other cold weather-related car problems. All of our guests struggle with frozen hands, frozen feet, frozen ears, as necessary cold weather gear stresses already tight budgets. And frigid cold and ice and snow covered streets and sidewalks make getting around difficult for everyone.

Daily Bread has done what we can to help guests deal with this much colder than usual winter. The kindness of all of you who support us in so many ways in our endeavors has made it possible for us to be especially helpful to our guests this year. Through a wealth of donations of food, we've been able to provide all our guests a nutritious and filling hot meal every day. Steaming hot, rich, meaty soups, savory entrees, hot chocolate, coffee...all our guests left warm and well fed. Our new building stayed toasty warm regardless of the temperature outside. We opened our doors and welcomed guests on even the coldest days of the Polar Vortex (and kudos to the MTD for keeping the buses running and warm!), and almost 200 guests showed up every day. We also provided sandwiches and pizzas for guests staying at the Phoenix (formerly Times Center) so that those guests wouldn't have to venture outside on dangerously cold days.



Many, many of you, actually hundreds of you, donated backpacks filled with cold weather gear that we handed out to guests in December. Those gloves, hats, socks, long underwear, sweatshirts, etc., were invaluable and much appreciated. Every year we get a huge donation of socks from Bombas Sock Company. As a Valentine's present we were able to give every guest a new pair of warm socks tied up with a bar of chocolate. On a cold Fat Tuesday, we offered every guest TWO desserts. In addition, we had extra socks, gloves, and hats to give to guests who arrived bare headed, sockless, or gloveless.



Our Assistance Committee provided guests who had a verified need for transportation with yearly bus passes, invaluable for getting around in a Champaign winter. Our RAP Office (Referral Assistance Program) helped guests deal with issues like lack of heat and utility and rent payments.

We at Daily Bread may not completely agree with Khalil Gibran about snow; while snow initially beautifies everything it touches, it eventually turns gray, icy, and makes everything it touches cold and difficult. But kindness, we've found, remains bright, and brings beauty and cheer to all it touches.

"Kindness is Ageless..."



We were delighted to learn recently that three Daily Bread volunteers were chosen as part of the News-Gazette Media and Clark-Lindsey's inaugural class of Seventy Over 70. The awards recognize *those who have demonstrated a lively curiosity and willingness to learn something new, an aptitude for personal and/or professional growth, and a commitment to bettering others.* We are thrilled that DBSK's President Emeritus Ellen McDowell, Monday volunteer Joan Zernich, and Thursday volunteer Anne Zolt were chosen for this honor.

We are even prouder to announce that DBSK volunteers could have filled ALL of those 70 spots because we have more than Seventy over 70 volunteers working every week at the soup kitchen. A rough count shows the Monday crew with 23 seventy+ volunteers, Tuesday crew with 21, Wednesday with 15-20, Thursday with 11 seventy-year-old volunteers, and Friday with 18-20. Our weekend crew chiefs claim that they operate with much younger crews. Our average age for volunteers may be over 65, but we are a 'young at heart' team!

“Kindness is a Backpack...”



Guests began arriving early on Backpack Giveaway Day, and, as we do every year, we worried that we wouldn't have enough backpacks for everyone. But, as happens every year, we handed out well over 800 generously filled backpacks and a sack lunch to everyone who showed up. Even Santa came and passed out cookies and coffee to guests patiently waiting in line. The gloves, socks, hats, long underwear, etc., that filled the backpacks have been a godsend for our guests this winter. It felt like Christmas on December 14! Special thanks to everyone who donated backpacks this year, including:

Holy Cross School, St. Matthew School, Valent Ag, Human Kinetics, Ruedi Wealth Management, Seven Saints Restaurant, Hagle and Fredrickson Law Office, Stacy Acton and Bayer Crop Science, City of Champaign Legal Department, Champaign Urbana Elks Club, PEO Chapter HI, U of I Marching Band, Phyllis Gerrib and Mahomet Christian Church, Faith United Methodist Church, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign, Susan Kessler and Faith United Methodist Women, New Life Church, Dottie Vura-Weis and the Quaker Meeting, Sonia Vickers and United Methodist Church Ogden, St. John Bosco Catholic Home Educators, St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society, Vi EpiWorks, Gena Attebary and American Legion Auxiliary #71, Lisa Gatzke and the Chapel of St. John the Divine, Cassie Ken and Mary Miller and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Deb Newell's Book Group, Carolyn Trimble's Saturday Morning Book Club, Eileen Schroeder's community Bible study group, Carol and St. Thomas More HS Interact Club, Jim Hiller's St. Matthew group, Marian Rodgers and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, Terri Martin, Bob and Deb Foertsch, Pam Rank, Joyce Conley, Judith Robinson, Kenny and Karen Wood, Carol Belber, Beth and Andrew Holm, Deane Wilhelm, Sandra Darby, Elizabeth Morley, Jason Reeves, Jane Hogan, Sally Zahos, Kathy Dwyer, Diane Clark, Sharon Conry, Kelley Millsap, Tony and Joan Peressini, Charlene Bayette, Mary Anderson, Mike Timmen, Stevie and Dick Bennett, Jim and Bonnie Hudson, Jane Cook, Dale Bauer, Katie Biggs, Amber Seip, Ron Deering, Kelley Bodine, Chloanne and Berton Rund, Michael Jay, Cathy Thurston, Maggie Bauer, Sandra Long, Linda Case, Linda Brokish, Beth Erwin, Kathy Smeltzer, Carolyn Cooper, Jolene Bowen, Teresa Brennan, Judy Vasey, Joan Zernich, K. Aswini, Karen Athy-Penrose, Sarah Cannon, Cindy Fraser, Trish Anton, Sarita Pankau, Judy Langley, SueAnn Styck, Joe and Phyllis Williams, Pat Johnson, Jeri Parks, Abby Ping, Peggy Wieneke, Karen Kane, Clare Haussermann, Vidya Tripathy, Phyllis Cler, Mary Kuetenger, Karen Johnston, Mikayla Busby, Margie Pfaab, Clark and Cindy Breeze, Zohreh Sullivan, Chris Weisgerber, Jenny Meyer, Adelle Renzaglia, Jim Dubnick, Vicki Christy, II- Glenn McGrath, Dave and Kathy Dowling, Beth Woodside, Quaker Friends, Gisele Atterberry, Michael Neal, Charles Markham, Macatelyn Rowell-Owens, William Linzy, Natalie Durdan, Jeanine Black, Stacy Rochel, Beth Mears, Kari Atkins, Vince Kistner, Gina Hieser, Don and Teri Shane, Laurie and Eric Larson, Katie Reifsteck, Ryan Kelly, Richard Keanne, Debbie Chew, Judy Braunfeld, Victor Cox, Mary Kay Solecki, Tias Paul, Susan Duitsman, Mrs. Clark, Bonnie and Bill Denny, Vicki Kesler and Connie Ingram, Jo Mennenga, Linda and Kyle Gerlach, Rose Mabry, Jennifer Gover Bannon, Monte Miles, Jackie Booth, Marianne Abbey-Smith, Diane Garland, The Dewitt Family, Joni Wittler, Tavey Wright, S. Johnson, Glenda Bates, Celeste Coverdill, Judy Lachman, Deva Hayman, Sandy Newport, Cheryl Hahn, Jeff and Tara Swearingen, Jennifer Scheele, Renee Mullen, Paula Loesse, John Britt, Sarah Spinella, Jessica Delost, Marnie Fuesting, Nicki Negrau, Pam Hagle, Charlie and Ruth Evans, Ellen McDowell, Mary Bissey, Denise Novak, Karen Pickard, Debbie Brinkmann, Susan Laesch, Helen Grandone, Linda Ross, Susan Marshall, Nancy Hatch, Ellen Harms, Linda Sloat, May Kay Pleck, Judy Nowak, Glenda Henderson, Carol Duhone, Judi Griffith, Sharon Bryan, Betsy Boyle,

...and many others who either didn't choose to leave a name, left a name that was illegible or, sadly, in the glorious confusion of the arrivals of so many generously filled backpacks, was never offered the notebook where we tried to take down names!

We are, however, grateful to each and every one of you who took the time out of your busy holiday to make Christmas special for our guests at the soup kitchen.

“Kindness is Community...”

Three years ago, when Daily Bread Soup Kitchen finally raised enough money to buy its own building and move away from New Covenant Church that had generously offered us a home and the use of their kitchen for over eight years, we had to go before the Champaign Zoning Commission to get permission to remodel the old Emerald City Bar and Restaurant into a soup kitchen. Eventually the Zoning Commission concluded that Daily Bread was basically a restaurant, except that no one had to pay for a meal. (And no staff got a salary.) And that’s how we’ve functioned ever since. We operate under Public Health guidelines, undergo regular Public Health inspections, serve only food prepared in a certified kitchen. Our building is approved under Champaign’s fire code. For all practical purposes, except for getting a bill after eating, our guests enjoy restaurant meals.

What we didn’t know until recently is that, just like other restaurants, our guests were going on line and reviewing us, giving us rating stars, giving their opinions. According to Google, 64 of our guests had rated us, with our receiving a solid 4.6 out of 5 stars! Here’s what some of those guests had to say about Daily Bread:

“It’s Great all around. Too the building that has plenty of room in it...Too the nice and clean well organized great tasting five course meal with plenty of something to drink and a sack lunch to go...And then with a friendly staff serving a hot and tasty meal with a smile to us patrons and sometimes with live music playing while we eat...I must say, This place is a Blessing to me and to others...Thank you Daily Bread soup kitchen...May God keep blessing there heart’s and to keep the doors open for us the people to come and have a hot meal and to see all of the beautiful smiles throughout the whole building inside and out...”



“This place is really great to go if you’re low on cash or food. The people there are very nice and their food most of the time is great. This is a Christian nonprofit organization who loves to help people who are in need. They even give you a sack lunch on the way out. We need more people in the world that love to help others who are in need. They show their love through God and show you what really love is. God bless these people who help others not only the homeless but people in general.”

“Free meals very good, good people, good environment, and you can take the whole family the food is really great go to try you like it.”

“Its ok at times food was ok today, didn’t eat today, visited people.”

“Good place too ea.t”

“A great place to go if you need help for food it is free for meal and they are very kind space open for all they also have certain programs at certain times that can help you in your situation if need be whether you’re a college student who don’t have much for food or a person who has nowhere to go and needs a warm plate this is the place to go

they will help you.”

“Absolutely love how warm and friendly these people are.”

“The only thing I got to complain about is the serving line is way too slow.”



"I have been frequenting Daily Bread for several years, sometimes out of necessity, but usually out of want for their delicious and wholesome meals, always prepared hot and fresh. The staff is always nice, even if the clientele is sometimes not. I admire their commitment to help those in need. They do a greater service to the public than do any other charitable organizations in the area, public or private. They even provide a sack lunch to go. One could survive solely on Daily Bread. In a society in which greed is the principal factor underlying its social and economic organization, the unabashed

altruism of the volunteers of Daily Bread is a refreshing reminder of the potential for humans to do great things for one another. If only those in power were so kind."

"This is a great place for a meal and they have other services available each day along with a bag meal you can take with you."

"Lots of good food, sack lunch when you leave, fruit and etc. They had some gloves and other essentials too. They deserve all the support they can get!"

"The food there is always good, the volunteers really helpful. And there's always good things to take with me! Yes. They do a good service for the community. God Bless the volunteers!!"

"Great place for the homeless or those in need."

"Great people! Free food! How could you lose!"

"On my way now."

"Awesome!"

"It is a great place to eat."

"I am so grateful for the food that is exceptional and homemade!!"

"I love this place the food is delicious! And the staff is so sweet."

"Their helpful to the community."

"Wonderful place. Food is prepared with TLC. Wonderful staff."

"They are very nice n helpful people Loving the hospitality."

"Great food, great service to those in need."

"Great place good friends good people to be around."

"Free food and lots of love."

"So nice, great food."

"A nice hot meal."

"Very helpful."

"Great food."

"Wonderful place awesome staff"

"They help the ones that really need it."

"The food is fabulous and free."

"Free food for anyone who is hungry."

"Great place."

"Safety and warmth."



Daily Bread's mission statement ends *"We provide a safe, respectful, and inviting environment in an atmosphere of hope and dignity."* We are grateful for these kind words of our guests as they affirm for us that we are 4.6 stars out of 5 fulfilling our mission! Now, if we could only get that serving line to move a bit faster!

**Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
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**Join us!
10th Annual
Empty Bowls Fundraising Event
for Daily Bread
April 10, 2018
3:30 -6:00 pm
Silvercreek Restaurant
402 North Race, Urbana**

**\$25/Adults, \$10/Children
includes a handcrafted bowl with
gourmet soup and bread.**

**Cash donations very gratefully accepted at:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648
or dailybreadsoupkitchen.com**