

Soup Scoop

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April 2021

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. Due to COVID-19, take-out lunches are served from 11:00 to 12:30 pm through the front door.

“She Stood in the Storm and When the Wind Didn’t Blow Her Down, She Adjusted Her Sails--and Carried On...” E. Edwards

On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at Daily Bread, we recognized the one-year anniversary of our shutting down our dining room and beginning the serving of takeout meals due to the COVID pandemic. March 16th was Taco Tuesday, and we were serving a Mexican meal provided by local restaurant El Toro, so our volunteers commemorated the date with a conga line out the front door, around the building, and back in the back door—all masked, all socially distanced, and, happily, mostly vaccinated! Guests waiting in line for their taco meal clapped and sang along with us.

None of us imagined when we shut the door a year ago that we would still be serving take-out meals in 2021. None of us imagined that we would be handing out hundreds of masks to guests who came maskless, that we would be drawing lines six feet apart to help our guests social distance.

We are proud at Daily Bread that we have been able to remain true to our mission to feed the hungry of our community. We are proud that, after we closed our dining room on Sunday, March 15, 2020, we haven’t missed a day serving a hot lunch. When the COVID storm surged the strongest, our volunteers put on their masks, followed all Public Health guidelines, and continued to cook up the same delicious and nutritious meals our guests had always enjoyed, only served take-out style.

We adjusted, and we carried on.

We are happy that our guests are fed every day. We are happy that Daily Bread has remained open. But Daily Bread has always offered guests more than a hot meal. All of our guests come to us hungry, but many of them come to us hungry for more than just food. Our guests and our volunteers miss the comradery, the sense of community, that comes when we sit down together for a meal.

Our volunteers are mainly vaccinated. Our guests are beginning to get vaccinated. We all are beginning to see sunshine through the clouds. We know that sometime in the future we will be able to open our doors again. We hope it’s soon.



***“The Reeds, Bending to the Force of the Wind, Soon Stood Upright Again
When the Storm Had Passed Over.” Aesop***

The strength of Daily Bread is its wonderful volunteers, those who have worked tirelessly this past year and those who have been forced to ‘shelter at home.’ All, in their own ways, have helped DBSK, weather the COVID storm; all are anxious for a return to a new normal when the storm passes!

There's plenty of room to move these days at DBSK, but I miss weaving in and out of tables and visiting with our guests. Dishing food into a clamshell is pretty efficient, but I miss hearing what our guests have to say about the food and complimenting the soup --- we're a soup kitchen without soup! I miss my fellow volunteers and look forward to being back together again. Yes, DBSK is about food, but so much of what we're about is people and our sense of community. I look forward to a return when we can be together. Tuesday Karen

I have come to cherish my time at Daily Bread, especially over this last difficult year, and enjoy the group effort, friendship and laughter (lots of laughter!) that the Friday crew shares every week. I look forward to a time when we can once again serve our guests a sit-down meal in our beautiful facility and when our entire crew is together again, working, chatting, getting a hot meal to our guests and enjoying our time together. Friday Linda

As one of the oldsters who has not been there during the pandemic, I miss everything about the DBSK. I miss working with the great Tuesday crew. I miss figuring out what extra things we can cook when the food runs out, and all the laughing while we work. I miss helping to feed people who might otherwise go hungry. It is the one of the most direct and gratifying types of work you can do for the community. I can hardly wait to get back to work at DBSK, as soon as possible. Tuesday Sandy

I had only been volunteering for a couple of weeks when I came to realize that the most important thing we provide at Daily Bread is not the food itself--although that is certainly important--but the opportunity to share that meal with others. I cannot wait for the day we open our doors again so that our guests can come back in, find a table, get a cup of coffee, and come say hello to those of us getting ready to serve the meal they will once more be able to share together. Saturday Karen

DBSK means to me that people will have a hot meal and something to put in their stomach later that night. I like that all people are served regardless of proving a need to anyone at the door. Monday Judy

Like many others, I cannot wait to return to DBSK. Miss the people, miss the guests, and miss the work and mission. Tuesday Dennie

What I miss from DBSK is the contact with all the people who sit and visit while they eat their lunch. I enjoyed hearing all their stories. I did not even mind bending over to tie a guest's shoes! All the Friday crew say that this is the best day in our week. Friday Barb

Due to the lockdown and living at Clark-Lindsay, I was unable to help for several months. I missed DBSK very much. I truly enjoy working with the Wednesday crew, the friendships I have made, and the feeling of aiding a need. Wednesday Marilyn

My sequestered life seems mighty quiet. I miss the clatter and chatter; I miss getting to know our guests. I look forward to returning to frantic Fridays, being with volunteers who work together and laugh together and who can, above all, be of service to the needy in some small ways. Friday Zarina

“Help Your Brother Across, and Lo! Your Own Has Reached the Shore.” Hindu Proverb

For the last eleven years, we have handed out generously filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. The men and women we see daily are rarely remembered at Christmas. For many, these backpacks were their only presents. There were always lots of smiles on Backpack Day at the soup kitchen. Sadly, due to COVID, we weren't able to celebrate a 12th year of Backpack Giveaway.



This year we had a Knapsack Giveaway instead. We bought knapsacks in two colors, one for men and one for women, and filled them with essential items including toiletries, hats, gloves, socks, and scarves. We then handed out the knapsacks as guests were picking up lunches. Thanks to some special donations, we were even able to give out knapsacks to children. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks. This year we gave away over 700 stuffed knapsacks.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated to this year's Knapsack Giveaway. Thank you for bringing some of the joy and magic of the season to the guests at Daily Bread during this very difficult year. Hopefully, in 2021, we will all be back in the backpack business again!

Knapsack Donors

Indian Cultural Society of Champaign-Urbana, Deborah and Robert Foertsch, Carolyn Conrad, Frederick and Hagle Attorneys at Law, Maureen and Richard Brummer, Diane Garland, Sharon Bryan, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Ed Mears, Vicki Kesler, Newport Family, Susan and Mike Weber, First United Methodist Church Sarah Circle, Lisa Burgoon, Nancy Rowley, Jane Cook, Bill Hardin, Sue and Mike VanMetre, University Housing, Trish Anton, Laura Morrison, Jane Smith, Kim File, Sue Cutter, Stacey Trimble, Sharon Conry, Michelle Maloney, The Baxley's, Ruth Branaman and the Catholic Daughters Court 1070, Elaine Buehl, Peggy Patten and Todd Kinney, Mahomet Christian Church, Phyllis Gerrib, Pat Malinski, Mary Lee Brady, Cathy Thurston, Marie Slattery, Sue Cutter, St. Matthew School 5-8th graders, Kyle and Linda, Cammy Foster, Tom Napier, Dr. Brucker Dental Staff in Gibson City, Lindsey Young, Abby Ping, Lorie Coates, Linda Farrand, Jim and Kathie Pound, Bobbie Trist, Johanna Harms, Scott and Karen Pickard, Jackie Christensen, Charlie and RuthAnn Evans, Gloria Sac, Sara Peters, Marcia Reed, Pat Elliot, Diane Clark, Aliza McTernan and Public Interest Law Foundation, Ann L. Smith, Eileen Schroeder, Diane Wilhelm, Carole Calwell, CU Zetas, Karolee Idam, Jen Falcon and Siera Honda, Bill Pend, the Kota Family, Jim Heffernan, Vicki Bond, Joe and Phyllis Williams, Korean Church, Jolene McBowen, Marilyn Hill, Champaign Central Music Boosters, Ray and Ruth Landry, Bill and Anita Million, Mary Kay Solecki, Deb and Ty Newell, Laurie and Eric Larson, Jim and Annie Burtand, Monica Munds, Dawn Rollings, Champaign Children's Home, Julianna Seebauer, Clare Haussermann, Ruedi Family, Maxine Nichole, Darla Colter, Patricia Murdoch, Rich Suchomski, Pat Johnson and Tom Yaxley, Kathy Kearney-Grobler, Marci Johnson, Marian Rodgers for Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, Sandy Lucas, Bill and Rose Goodman, Betty Ralston, Joe Casserley, Sandy and Joe Finnerty, Joanne Cahill, Judy Lachman, Deb Newell's Book Club, Linda Laugges, Joanne Hesselman Smith, Cindy Loui, Cheryl Hahn, Mary Klein, Ekta Garg, Mike and Mary McMillen, Karen Smith, Maria Gillumgordo, Kirk and Kalah McGraw, Patricia Knowles, Sammy Lindgren, Vicky Trimble, Teresa Dewitt, Bev Hertle, Kathy Frizzell, Mary-Alayne Hughes, Kyle and Linda Gerlach, Craig Milling, Cammy Foster, Paula Luesse, Kathy Micek, Anna Kasten, Susan Bekiares, Trudy and Judy Langley, Roger Bliss, Kirankumar Topudurti, Renee Mullen, Kathy Dwyer, JoAnne and Jim Kenyon, Charlotte Green, Kathy Murray, Mary Ann Taber, Zarina and Hans Hock, Mary Klein, Kim Curtis, Kathleen Rapp Smith, Amy Webb, Nancy Hatch, Tom Scott's Daughter-in-Law, LaDonna Rhoads, Teresa Dewitt, Rose Mabry, Maggie and Noah Morgan, Elizabeth and Drew Keiser, Joyce Beitel, Sharon Jones, Mary Jo Porter, Linda and John Ross, Helen Grandone, Nancy and William Ford, William and Teryl Piggot, Theresa Haxlewood, and many many others!

If you are interested in another easy way to help out DBSK, and if you've spent a lot of this Covid year buying things on Amazon, check out the AmazonSmile program. Sign up and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to Daily Bread. You shop. Amazon gives.

“Even in the Midst of the Storm, the Sun is Still Shining.”
Dayna Lovely

As we commemorated this year of Covid, we have been reminded that, even in the midst of the storm, there has been much to celebrate. We are blessed to live in a wonderful, generous community. Here are just a few of the ways that DBSK has experienced this generosity.

DBSK has received over \$25,000 in COVID-19 Relief funds from the United Way of Champaign County, Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, and the American Water Company. DBSK has been impacted by COVID 19 in the following areas: (1) Decreased number of volunteers: Since our volunteers are primarily senior citizens who have the highest risk factors, we have significantly fewer people who are able to assist in our endeavor. We have limited the number of daily volunteers to 10-12 so we can practice social distancing in our facility. (2) Increased cost: We’ve used these Covid funds to purchase biodegradable clamshells, disposal utensils, and face masks. We’ve also purchased extra meat, cheese and peanut butter so our guests have additional protein in their sack lunches. For many of our guests the sack lunch is their evening meal. (3) Bottled Water: Our guests who are homeless and/or transient have little access to water since all public water fountains are currently disconnected. We began purchasing bottled water to include with our daily meal to meet this need of our guests.

Since March 16, 2020, because of these grants and because of the generous checks that we have received this year from our supporters, we have not missed a day serving our guests. We have also been able to give each guest a hot take-out lunch and a sack lunch to take home for dinner.



Many of you may have heard the advertisements in which Bombas Socks promises to donate one pair of socks for every pair sold. We are delighted to let you know that Bombas Socks is true to its promise and that DBSK has been a lucky recipient of their generosity. We received TWO THOUSAND pairs of socks in October, many of which found their way into the Christmas knapsacks. Many more were tied up in ribbons along with a candy bar by Lakeview nursing students and handed out to guests as a Valentine gift. The rest of the socks we hand out to guests who arrive sockless.

We were shocked (and delighted!) to learn that when Austin Apgar learned about Daily Bread Soup Kitchen from his friend Leslie, a longtime member of the Tuesday crew, he was so inspired by her commitment that he organized a Facebook fundraiser that brought in (Gulp!) \$20,881.00! That one fundraiser will pay all of DBSK’s expenses for a whole month!

State Senator Scott Bennett’s Office arranged for DBSK to receive 300 ready-to-heat and eat meals that we were able to pass out to very appreciative guests.



Julianna Jung, a former Daily Bread Saturday volunteer, moved on to fame and fortune as the recent winner of the Food Network's Holiday Baking Championship. But Juliana was not one to forget her past in the DBSK kitchen. She initiated a fundraiser for Daily Bread at local bakery Caffé Paradiso, in which she baked her famous cardamon cupcakes and banana bread with dark chocolate buttercream. Juliana stopped by to deliver the check on a Saturday, only to learn that the crew was very low on deserts for guests that day. She was persuaded by Crew Chief Jeff to whip up a batch of her special peppermint brownies. It's not every day that DBSK guests get to dine on prize-winning pastry.



Saturday Crew Chief Jeff isn't only persuasive, he's also a creative problem solver. One Saturday, Daily Bread received a huge donation of cauliflowers. Jeff assigned his crew the job of cleaning and cutting up the cauliflower while he set about making a cheese sauce out of white cheese, the only cheese he could find in the walk-in refrigerator. He was worried that our guests might be leery of the white cheese sauce, so he began experimenting with red and yellow food coloring until he created a perfect orange sauce that would please even the most discerning guest.

Once again we were happy to be chosen by Common Ground for their Round Up for Good Program, and we were even happier to accept a check for \$3,890.

Julianna Jung might be a great baker, but Daily Bread is blessed with many great cooks. Thursday cook, Yvette, is particularly famous for her ham and beans with homemade cornbread. A guest once remarked, "I never thought anyone could make better ham and beans than my mother, but I was wrong. Those Thursday ham and beans are OUTSTANDING!"

We noticed that many guests were showing up without gloves and hats during that long February cold spell, so we put out a notice on Facebook for donations. We are so grateful to everyone who responded with donations of warm hats and gloves.



Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
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**NO MASK?
NO LUNCH!**
(Ask if you need one.)

**NEED LUNCH?
DON'T BUNCH!**
(6 ft. apart, please!)

Rules of C-U Public Health
*We WANT to stay open.
Please do your part.*

***“We are Not All in the Same Boat;
We are in the Same Storm. Some
have Yachts. Some have Canoes.
And Some are Drowning. Just Be
Kind and Help When You Can.”***

Damian Barr

Cash donations always gratefully accepted
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
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or at dailybreadsoupkitchen.com