

Soup Scoop

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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 10:30 to 12:30 pm through the front door.

“If You Really Want to Receive Joy and Happiness, Then Serve Others with All Your Heart.”
Ezra Taft Benson

It sometimes feels hard to believe but it has now been over two years since the arrival of Covid. Daily Bread served its last hot meal in the dining room on Sunday, **March 15, 2020**. That day, 151 guests enjoyed beef Bolognese or ginger spiced pork on a bun, served with mac and cheese.

And Ellen McDowell, DBSK poet, founder, and president emeritus shared the following:

Another lovely Sunday scene, For the menu, haute cuisine!
Delightful offerings on a bun, Something there for everyone.
For a time, we will not meet, Guests won't come inside to eat.
Together we will watch and pray, Looking forward to the day.
The doors will open once again, We'll see our guests come crowding in.
'Twill give us all the time to say, How much we love D-B-S-K!

On Monday, **March 16, 2020**, we began our take-out service. We served 218 hot lunches and 220 sack lunches. Guests were served either a pork chop or chicken in a recyclable takeout clamshell. We were not thrilled about serving only takeout meals, but we believed that this was the most effective way to protect the health of both our guests and our volunteers. We all assumed that we would shortly be serving meals in the dining room again.

Obviously, that ‘shortly’ hasn’t yet happened! On **March 16, 2022**, we served 320 meals and 365 sack lunches out the front door. The meal, still in biodegradable clamshells, included Beef noodle or chicken noodle casseroles. Guests received a sack lunch and a bottled water with their hot meals.

We wish that we could tell our guests exactly when our dining room will be open again. But, although we have begun planning for that happy day, another Covid variant looms and many of our guests remain unvaccinated, so plans remain tentative.

We are proud to say, however, that we have not missed a day these last two years serving our guests a hot meal. On the worst snow day of 2022, when even the mailman and the paperboy stayed home, 152 guests ventured out for meatloaf and mashed potatoes served by intrepid DBSK Thursday volunteers.



“The Joy of Brightening Other Lives Becomes the Magic of the Holidays.”

W. C. Jones

To paraphrase the Grinch, that infamous Christmas curmudgeon, “Covid couldn’t stop Christmas from coming, it came. It came just the same.” For the second year in a row, we weren’t able to give out generously stuffed backpacks to our guests like we did in past years, but we were able to hand out over 700 knapsacks stuffed with toiletries and cold weather items like socks, gloves, hats, and scarves to grateful guests.

Once again, our generous Champaign-Urbana community rallied around and supported this project. Individuals and groups dropped off donations, and hard-working volunteers filled red knapsacks for women, green knapsacks for men, and brightly colored sacks with Christmas designs for kids. We are so grateful for everyone who contributed to the success of the 2021 Knapsack Giveaway. Below is a partial list of donors. Some donors preferred to remain anonymous; other names were lost in the confusion of a busy two weeks. But we are grateful to each and every one who participated. (And we hope to see you in 2022—hopefully filling backpacks!)



2021 Knapsack Donors

Gloria Grant and St. John Lutheran Church of Royal, Kelly Bodine, Laura Morrison, Sharon Jones, Mary Kay Solecki, Human Kinetics, Jane Cook, Mike and Joyce Day, Barb Buoy, Hagle and Fredrickson Law Firm, Cleta Conerty, Ann Parkinson, Joyce Ihrig, Jackie Christensen, Jennifer Greene, Abby Ping, Adelle Renzaglia and Jim Dubricek, Lauren Dubrincek, Bob and Deb Foertsch, Nestor and Lynda Ramirez, First United Methodist Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, Barbara Hughes, Peggy Patten, Teddy Kinney, Linda Laugges, Tweety Yates, Melody Neumann, Brownie Kocher, Denise Hood, Sharon Jones, Maggie and Noah Morgan, Liz Keiser, Patrick and Betsy Evans, Dr. Greg and Karen Martin, El Foodbank, Bill and Anita Million, Sri Sathasai Centre, Nidhi Nazi, Meredith Cobble, Bob Gordon, Mattis Avenue Free Methodist Church, Kevin Cagle, Kathy Brinkemann, Anne Heiles, Pat Morey, Marilyn Ryan, Leslie Amber Alexander, Angela Graham, Ed Mears, Nancy Rowley, Jane Oldham, Julie Duran, Sandy Lu and Fred Newport, Carol Pryor, Sam and Susan Reese, Sharon Conry, Cynthia Nafziger, Jack and Will Hiser, Susie Kundrat, Bobbi McCall, Ruth Landry, Terry and Rick Hazelwood, Mary Margret O’Conner, U of I Housing, Trish Anton, Mary Jo Porter, Cheryl Hahn, Paul Ruedi Family, Michael Lowry and Sheila Kite, Leslie Mason, Connie and Chuck Shaw, Clare Haussermann, Peter Lazarevich, CU Elks in Savoy, St. Matthew Catholic School Grades 5-8, Cindy and Gavin Zarbuck, Wendy Webber, Girl Scout Troop 2250, Amy Robinson, leader,



Paula Luesse, Cathy Bialeschki, Lee Tucker, Kevin Wilhelm, St. Patrick Church of Tolono, Mary Smith, Mary Lee Brady, Clark and Cindy Breeze, Julia and Gene Robinson, Gina Stocking, Kathy Springer, St. Patrick Altar and Rosary Society of Tolono, Raymond McGavron, City of Champaign Legal Department, Miranda Zarate, Maggie Bauer, Jim Hand, Holy Cross and St. Matthew Catholic Daughters, Deb Newall’s Book Club, Vicki Kesler, Janet Ellis Nelson, Lindsey Young, Carle Critical Care Department, Carolyn Gile, Jeannette Elliott, Joanne Cahill, Marcia Clinard, Bob and Mary Kay Hughes, Linda Sloat, Fran Damaris, Greg and Kathy Hatch, Jane Piper, Lisa Miller, Cindy Loui, Marian Rodgers and Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, New Life Korean Church, Nancy Hatch, Susan Marshall, Janet Pope, Jan Reynolds, Helen Grandone, Denise Novak, Karen and Scott Pickard, Johanna Harms, Ruth Ann Evans, Holy Cross School, Mary Jane Kelley, Judy Sehy, Jo Anne and Jim Kenyon, Karyn Turk, Donna VanDyke

“There are Those Who Give with Joy, and That Joy is Their Reward.”
Khalil Gibran

To paraphrase a 90’s song, ‘We like big checks, and we cannot lie.’ As you probably noticed, the number of meals we are handing out to guests has gone up significantly over the last two years. In addition, our expenses have risen significantly as well, due to the increased number of meals we are serving, the decision to increase the quality of meat in our sack lunches, the addition of bottled water with meals, and the cost of take-out supplies. Clamshells, plastic silverware, bags, etc. for 300 meals a day don’t come cheap. We are so grateful for the generous donations from individuals, groups, and businesses that have allowed us to feed the hungry during this pandemic. Please, please keep the donations coming!

Daily Bread was delighted to receive a \$5000 check from the Meijer Foundation. This Meijer Community award felt particularly meaningful when we learned that the employees of the Urbana store had nominated and voted for Daily Bread to receive this award from the Meijer corporate office.



This past fall, Steven Suderman, owner and president of Good Vibes, wanted to find a unique way to celebrate Good Vibes’ 50 years of serving the Central Illinois community’s electronic needs. In order to give back to the community, he created a raffle with amazing prizes. A \$20 ticket allowed purchasers a chance at a prize plus the \$20 went to Daily Bread, CU at Home, or Empty Tomb, all local charities. Happy Anniversary to Good Vibes—and thanks so much for the \$2446.72 donation!

Every year Deborrah Pagel’s art students at The High School of St. Thomas More create handmade ceramic bowls that are then offered to the public at their annual Empty Bowls Supper. Guests leave with a bowl to remind them that there are always empty bowls in the world. Ms. Pagel believes that it is important for art students to learn to use their creative gifts altruistically. Once again the money raised at the event was donated to Daily Bread. We are very grateful for the \$1465.00 donation which will provide a hot meal for almost 3000 guests.



We also received a \$600 check from Amazon Smile. If you order regularly from Amazon (and who doesn’t these days!), join Amazon Smile, designate Daily Bread as your charity, and Amazon will donate .5% of every purchase to DBSK. Contact Pam Hagle at phigle@aol.com if you have any questions.

“To Serve is Beautiful, But Only if it is Done with Joy and a Whole Heart.”
Pearl S. Buck

At Daily Bread, we pride ourselves on the quality of our meals, but we also pride ourselves on the community that we’ve created with our guests. We miss seeing guests every day, but we still come to the soup kitchen with a heart full of love. To paraphrase Sister Sledge, “We are family, I got all my DBSK buds with me...”



The Friday crew loves to get their groove on. They set up a blue tooth speaker, select some music, sing, and dance—or at least move!

Common Ground dropped off 100 pounds of potatoes on a Saturday morning, and the dedicated crew peeled, cooked, and mashed those potatoes into what they named the “Best Free Mashed Potatoes in CU!”

Mrs. Hack’s 6th grade students at St. Matthew School tied red and pink ribbons around donated Bomba’s socks for the Monday crew to hand out to guests on

Valentine’s Day. Our guests were delighted with the surprise gifts. (And, yes, for all of you who have heard Bomba’s advertising that they donate a pair of socks for every pair they sell, that advertisement is true. We recently just got a delivery of another 3000 pairs of socks!) So, thanks to St. Matthew six-graders and thanks to Bombas!



Tuesday’s head cook, Kathleen, is a retired math teacher, so she was the first to notice that February 22 could be written 2/22/22 and that 2/22/22 was happening on a Tuesday. It took quite a bit of convincing, but Crew Chief Charlie Evans finally agreed to wear a TUTU in honor of the day. Rumor has it that Charlie even did a few twirls on the sidewalk to entertain our amused guests. Sadly, there is no video of this performance. Kathleen was disappointed when she realized that Pi Day, 3/14, wasn’t a Tuesday this year. She wanted to make shepherd’s pie for our guests.

A mom and her young daughter stepped up and asked for two meals on a cold day in March. Both were wearing only short sleeved tee shirts. Front sidewalk supervisor Charlie Brown was able to offer the woman a bright green sweater jacket and zip her little one into a fleece-lined hooded coat that had been donated for knapsacks. While Charlie's Pandora soundtrack entertained the sidewalk scene, there were more "Thank You's," "Yes, please's," and "God Bless You's" than an orchestra could possibly play. High notes all around on a low temperature day.



The Tuesday crew celebrated Fat Tuesday by showing up wearing green or purple shirts and Mardi Gras beads. The Louisiana meal of the day consisted of red beans and rice with andouille and chicken sausage served with delicious homemade cole slaw and warm biscuits. The crew is looking forward to offering our guests two desserts next year when we are back serving inside.

Mahomet Girl Scout troop 2973 (Daisies) brought us four cartons of Girl Scout cookies to share with our guests. Everyone loves Girl Scout cookies!

Wednesday was delighted to welcome a choir from Holy Cross School in December who came over to perform for the volunteers. Every Wednesday we also get a food delivery from Gordon Food Service. The truck driver enjoyed the concert as well. Holy Cross students have been great friends of the soup kitchen. Students and parents delivered over 100 generously filled knapsacks for the Knapsack Giveaway, and the students come by once a week with milk and fresh fruit for our guests.



On Sunday, February 27, Lavanya Podila donated sack lunches in honor of her mother who died five years ago. Lavanya donates food every year on the anniversary of her mother's death as a way to honor her memory. Blessings to Lavanya and her mother.

Every day, besides cooking over 300 hot meals for our guests, Daily Bread cooks also prepare a vegetarian

option for guests who, for various reasons, can't eat the meal of the day. For most days this option is usually something simple like a slice of cheese pizza or a vegetarian pasta. But Friday guests get something special. Zohreh Sullivan comes in especially to create amazing Indian vegetarian meals for our lucky vegetarian guests. Last Friday's offering was rice pilaf with spinach, garbanzo beans, and spices. Delicious!



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

*“I Slept and Dreamt that
Life was Joy.
I awoke and saw that
Life was Service.
I acted and, behold,
Service was Joy.”*
Rabindranath Tagore

*“It is always such a Joy that
you wake up in the morning
and there is work to do.”*
Jerome Lawrence



These Friday volunteers are all smiling under their masks.