

Soup Scoop

Volume 22
August, 2014

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 out of the facilities of New Covenant Fellowship at 124 W White St., Champaign. Lunches are served M-F from 11:00-12:30. Sack lunches and coffee are served from a mobile van on weekends.

Summertime and the Livin' Is Easy...

The living is easy, that is, if you are lucky enough to have air conditioning in your home or in your car. If you are lucky enough to have a pool pass to take the kids to the pool on a hot summer day. Lucky enough to have the cash to buy delicious fresh vegetables and fruit that local farmers sell at the Urbana Farmer's Market every Saturday morning. Lucky enough to have cash for a trip to Custard Cup or the Champaign County Fair. Lucky enough to have a job that gives you two weeks of paid time off so that you can take the family on a vacation.

For most of the guests at the Soup Kitchen, the summertime livin' isn't easy! It's hard, and it's hot. Very few have air conditioning in their homes, if they are lucky enough to have a place to call home. Very few have cars. Very few have extra cash that would let them enjoy ice cream and ferris wheels and fresh tomatoes. Very few have jobs, much less jobs that offer vacations. Summertime for many of our guests means that the kids are home from school and the food budget must be stretched even further to feed hungry children.

Our Daily Bread volunteers do what we can to give out guests a few summer pleasures. Our building is air-conditioned, and we are happy to let guests linger over a meal and get a respite from the oppressive heat. Thanks to a grant from Champaign Rotary, we have a huge ice maker that lets us keep coolers of ice water and lemonade readily available. Thanks to Eastern Illinois Food Bank and Gordon Food Service, we frequently are able to offer guests fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as ice cream and popsicles for dessert. And thanks to generous gardeners in the area, we are able to serve a wealth of local produce. One Tuesday we shucked 300 ears of local sweet corn that a generous donor picked fresh that morning and dropped off for our guests. Fresh, sliced tomatoes, green beans, zucchini, strawberries, watermelon, berries, all have been enjoyed by our guests.

This summer, as the temperature has gone up, so has the number of guests we've been serving. Many days we've served well over 250 guests in an hour and half. Many of these guests are children, home from school and missing the hot lunch programs that schools provide.

Summertime livin' for many of our guests isn't easy. In the words of one of the mothers we've served, "Don't know what I'd do this summer without the soup kitchen."



Summertime Blues

Preparing and serving a hot meal to over 200 guests is not easy under the best of circumstances. This summer our intrepid volunteers frequently prepared all those meals under the worst of circumstances! We are incredibly grateful to New Covenant Fellowship for their willingness to share their facilities with a soup kitchen. But the building is not young, the equipment is not new, and preparing over 200 meals a day puts a strain on any kitchen.

Early this summer, in the middle of serving a meal, we noticed water coming up through the drains in the floor. Soon we were experiencing what we could only describe as a FLOOD! A broken pipe turned out to be the culprit, a broken pipe that could only be replaced by tearing out the tile and digging up the floor, lots of the floor, to find the leak! As anyone knows who has ever remodeled a kitchen, none of this happened quickly. But our determined volunteers persevered, and we never shut down! We handed out sack lunches when the kitchen was entirely unavailable. And we cooked again, stepping carefully over a gaping trough in the floor, as soon as the workmen said ok.



Only months after the FLOOD, our volunteers were again shocked when our hardworking dishwasher caught FIRE and filled the kitchen up with smoke! Fortunately, New Covenant is located only half a block from a fire station so the response from the fire department was quick, and the damage was minor and limited to the dishwasher. All we needed to fix the dishwasher was a part, which, as anyone who has ever remodeled a kitchen knows, was not readily available! But, once again, our guests never missed a meal. Once again we handed out sack lunches for two days, and then we were back in the hot lunch business, albeit without a dishwasher! No one, especially the volunteers who actually do the dishes, complained about our use of paper goods while we waited for the part needed to put the dishwasher back in business. But the cost of paper goods as well as the cost of repairs wreaked havoc on our budget. And the amount of trash quickly overwhelmed our garbage cans. We were all delighted when the dishwasher was finally back in service!

Summertime News

For the fifth year in a row, Candy Foster and his band Shades of Blue performed at a benefit for Daily Bread at Alto Vineyards—and for the fifth year the weather was perfect! No rain, a nice breeze, and a sky full of stars. Once again guests feasted on a Daily Bread sack lunch. Everyone enjoyed a ham sandwich, a salad especially created by Tony Peressini, delicious soups supplied by Urbana Garden, LaPeep, and Daily Bread's own Karen Kane, and dessert straight from Sam's Bakery. Candy and



the band were in great form, and the dance floor rocked all night. The highlight of the evening (for the volunteers, if not our guests!) was when Candy turned the microphone over to us, and the apron-clad volunteers serenaded the crowd and Candy with our own version of "The Candy Man."

*"Who can come to Alto? Each and every year,
Help us to raise dough and spread a lot of bluesy cheer...
The Candy Man --- WHO? ---
The Candy Man can."*



A special thanks to the Candy Man! And to his band Shades of Blue! And to everyone who enjoyed the evening and helped us raised almost \$20,000—much needed money given all the unplanned expenses due to our kitchen woes!

And a special thanks to our sponsors: Brownie Troop 2149 (Holy Cross

School), Champaign Surplus, Esquire Lounge, Don and Suzy Armstrong, Charles & Ruth Ann Evans, Ranjit & Prade Dhillon, Fincham's Cleaning. Louis Fincham, First Federal Savings Bank, Frederick & Hagle, Jim & Pam Hagle, Jeanne Handley, Jim & Ellen Harms, Alan & Clare Haussermann, Hickory Point Bank, Peg Hoffman, Venessa Horsman, John & Marilyn Janusco, Martin Kammerer, James Kearns, Patricia Knowles, Nori Komarita, Mettler Center, Dean & Nancy Olson, O'Brien Toyota of Urbana, One Main Development, Pepsico, Scott & Karen Pickard, Janet Piccioli, Patrick Rouse, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Neil & Barbara Schurter, Jack & Gina Stocking, Dave & Kristin Tarrant, U of I Credit Union, MBS Envision, Inc., Ellen and Austin McDowell, Don and Linda Hicks, Brigitte Stevens, Johanna Harms, Dick, Joyce, and Sarah Meents

Early Summer News

In April Daily Bread was delighted to be the recipient of a benefit organized by Champaign-Urbana's Empty Bowls, an international grassroots organization dedicated to fighting hunger. The premise is simple. Potters create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, and guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

Our Empty Bowls event was held at Silvercreek Restaurant on April 3rd. We are grateful to Allen Strong, owner of Silvercreek, for donating his restaurant and providing what everyone agreed was delicious soup for the event.



We are grateful to artists Chris Berti, Dwain Naragon, and Laura O'Donnell who donated bowls for the raffle. And we are incredibly grateful to Roger Kirkwood, Joanna Vaughn, Champaign-Urbana Potters Club, Parkland College ceramic faculty and students, and Kickapoo Pottery for creating over 200 beautiful bowls.

We are especially grateful to the Empty Bowls Planning Committee of Susan Garner, Patricia Knowles, Stephanie Sutton, and Linda Weiner for all their hard work—and for the check for \$6,841.00 they presented to Daily Bread! That money will fill many soup bowls at the soup kitchen.

Summertime Needs

1. Our Assistance Committee, which is in charge of helping guests obtain state ID's, birth certificates, and yearly bus passes, is looking for volunteers. Guests can apply for ID's and birth certificates on the third Wednesday of each month. We accept applications for bus passes on a random basis, depending on available resources. Volunteers help guests fill out applications, check over applications, and then meet guests at the DMV or the bus station with appropriate checks. Anyone interested in this committee should contact Ellen McDowell at 356-7101 or ajmcdowe@illinois.edu
2. Our Wednesday crew is looking for volunteers to help with dishwashing from 11:00 to 1:30! Although we do have a dishwasher (hopefully, it is again functioning!), dishes need to be scraped, loaded, and put away. If interested, contact Bob Goss at bobgoss@gmail.com
3. Our Monday crew is looking for volunteers to greet and supervise guests and to pass out sack lunches in the foyer of New Covenant Fellowship. Guests are allowed in the building from 10:30 to 12:45. If interested, contact Clare at chausser@comcast.net
4. Our food procurement committee is looking for volunteers to pick up donated food throughout the community. For more information, contact Dick Bennett at dickbennett@aol.com
5. Our Grants Committee is looking for new members. This committee writes grant applications to local organizations such as United Way, Rotary, etc., for equipment and other resources to enhance our mission of feeding the hungry of our community. For more information, contact Karen Kane at Karen.kane@gmail.com

Summertime Blessings

We have much to be thankful for at the soup kitchen this summer.

**Candy Foster and Empty Bowls weren't the only benefits for Daily Bread this summer. Siblings Isa and Nico Arizaga opened their



annual lemonade stand and gave 90% of their sales to Daily Bread. Daily Bread is extremely grateful for the \$208, plus 2 watermelons, a bag of apples, seven cans of food, and a box of pancake mix! Way to go, Isa and Nico!

**St. Matthew first graders made snowmen and donated \$535 to Daily Bread.

**John and Deanna Wright donated enough warm socks that we were able to give every guest a pair as a St. Patrick's Day present.

**Wesley Graduate Students Bible Study Group donated sandwiches.

**Barb Maxstadt donated blankets and baggies.

**Delta Gamma sorority donated food and gelato, much appreciated on a hot day.

**Prairie Fire donated food when they went out of business.

**Several people donated silverware, including Mary Ann Leger, Donna Helms, Diane Smith, and Barb Schurter.

**Uni High Boosters donated cake.

**County Market donated cheese, dips, eggs, etc.

**Holy Cross teachers arrived weekly with fruit and milk.

**Christina White and Marty Burke donated fruit.

**U of I athletes donated basketball and volleyball shoes.

**Hagle family adult children donated their Bahama vacation gambling winnings.

**Daily Bread's own Jeff Carns was honored as an Illinois Volunteer of the Year for his work as crew chief of the weekend crew that provided sandwiches, soup, and drinks to guests every weekend day of the year, rain, snow, or sweltering heat! Well done, Jeff!

****Most of all we are thankful for everyone who sends the checks that make our mission possible. We are entirely staffed by volunteers, and we operate entirely on donations. We are grateful for the generous donations that keep our soup boiling, our salad tossed, our air conditioning running, and our garbage picked up!**



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



Wintertime Blessings!

Christmas seems a long way off as we are basking in the August sunshine! But Christmas is only four months away. Once again, come December, Daily Bread will be asking for donations of backpacks filled with items that help our guests better endure the cold winter months. Last year Daily Bread supporters made Christmas magic by donating over one thousand generously filled backpacks that we gave to our appreciative guests. Right now many stores have great bargains on back to school backpacks. We would encourage everyone to shop early (and shop often). Look for more information in the November newsletter.

(The address below is for monetary donations only-NO BACKPACKS!)

Mail donations to:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648
Champaign, Il. 61824-0648