

# Soup Scoop

Volume 23  
March, 2015

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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.*

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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.

## ***“Throw kindness around like confetti...”***

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen has grown and flourished these last five years because of the kindness, generosity, and commitment of its volunteers, our supporters in the community, and also the guests that we feed every day. Daily Bread is unusual in that it has NO PAID STAFF at all! Everything is done by volunteers. Daily Bread is unusual in that it receives NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING. All of our funding comes from individual donations and small local grants. And Daily Bread is unusual in that we place NO REQUIREMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS on those who share our tables. We lovingly feed a nutritious, tasty, hot meal to everyone who walks through our doors.



We are always amazed at the kindness of the Champaign-Urbana community, but in these last few months we have truly seen kindness flying around like confetti, with so much of it being thrown our way. We would like to share some of our stories.

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Once again Daily Bread sponsored our annual Backpack Give-away in which we gave guests backpacks filled with items that would be useful for surviving a harsh Illinois winter. Backpacks arrived in droves, filling almost to the brim the spare Sunday school rooms that New Covenant generously allowed us for storage. Champaign Rotary once again donated more than eighty stuffed backpacks. We got backpacks from school groups, book clubs, neighborhood groups, church groups, and many individuals.

December 18th arrived sunny and balmy--and we gave out 802 backpacks in just over two hours! We were lucky to have TWO Santa's, one who handed out cookies and even danced with people standing outside patiently waiting their turn to come in and get a backpack. Our other Santa brought along Mrs.

Claus, and the two of them sat inside and held very special private conversations with little children who came for a backpack. (Mr. and Mrs. Claus, pictured, are also known as Dennis and Jeanetta

Sparks, recently retired Central High School Assistant Principal and Spanish teacher respectively. Mr. Claus surprised some of our guests who were Central grads by whispering in their ears, “Surprise, I’m Mr. Sparks!”)

The weather cooperated on our Give-away Day, as it did most of an unseasonably warm December. But the January and February weather has been brutal for many of our guests, and the gloves, scarves, hats, socks, long underwear, etc. that filled the backpacks have been very much appreciated by everyone. On behalf of our guests we want to thank everyone who donated a backpack. The donors of all those backpacks were definitely throwing kindness around--like green and red confetti!

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We couldn’t feed over 200 people every day without the donations of food that arrive and arrive and arrive. Carle’s Spine Institute donated 10 Thanksgiving hams. Pictured right are the organizers, Dr. V. Johnson and Tom Cottrell. Russell Overholt donated a turkey. Vince Early donated canned meat and noodles. Deb Klein brought in 300 chicken wings that were left over from a cystic fibrosis fundraiser. Ljubinka Jandrich brought in a delicious smoked ham. Delta Gamma Sorority donated pasta. The Cake Artists Studio donated yummy Christmas desserts. Bread came in from Urbana Middle School. We get weekly donations of breads, bagels, and desserts from Panera. Jim Barham Benefit Group donated eight cases of fruit. Bob Evans Restaurant donated pies. Human Kinetics donates leftover food from catered luncheons. Henrick House on campus donates leftovers. Gordon Food Service keeps us supplied with fresh salad ingredients as well as dairy products and prepared salads. Soups come in regularly from Urbana Garden Restaurant and La Peep. And a volunteer shops daily at Eastern Illinois Foodbank. It’s because of these generous donations (and our creative cooks) that we can serve more than 200 people a day for only \$100 in food costs.



More kindness, more confetti!

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Hickory Point Bank, in celebration of the opening of its new bank at 202 W. Park St, Champaign, held a contest in which local residents were able to vote for their favorite charity. Daily Bread was thrilled to be the winner of the contest and to accept a check for \$3,500! We can buy more than a month’s worth of food with that prize money.

But that’s not the entire story. Since Hickory Point Bank is just down the street from Daily Bread, one of our regular guests decided to go and vote for his favorite eating-place. He was stunned and delighted to learn that night that he was the winner of the daily door prize that Hickory Point was offering all voters a chance to win. “I’ve never won anything in my life,” he told us with a huge smile. “And now I’ve won a gift certificate to Mary Ann’s Diner and a six month subscription to The News-Gazette. I walk to the library every day to read the newspaper, and now I can read it in my own apartment.”

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Daily Bread's own Ellen McDowell (pictured on previous page) was recently selected by McKinley Foundation as the Social Justice Award winner in the Community Individual category. According to the committee "Your work over the years with Daily Bread exemplifies what this award stands for. We hope that you will share our excitement and pride as you receive this important honor that recognizes your achievements and contributions to make the community and the world a better and more just place." Knowing Ellen as we do, we are sure she is pleased to receive this award, but we are even more sure that she is delighted for the \$500 donation to Daily Bread that is included!



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The CU Storytelling Guild held a Storytelling Concert and Benefit for Daily Bread on December 6. The concert by some very talented storytellers raised \$1036 for Daily Bread. That's a narrative that we love!

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Sunrise Rotary donated \$5000 to Daily Bread's capital fund raised through their December fruit sale. Zarina Hock, Friday crew chief, accepted the gift at an early morning meeting. Not always a morning person, Zarina described the event thusly: At moments like

this, I can only express my feelings through Lewis Carroll: "O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay! [S]he chortled in [her] joy." The rest of us are joyfully chortling as well! (And throwing confetti!)

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Ken Roth of Forrest, Illinois, called and asked if we could use some turkeys, 40 turkeys in fact! Yes, Yes, Yes, we could, we said, but... storage may be a problem. "No problem," said Ken, "I'll just keep them for you and bring them in as needed!" Thanks to Ken, our guests have celebrated Thanksgiving in January and Thanksgiving in February. Thanksgiving in March is just around the corner.

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As most of you know, Daily Bread is unable to serve a hot meal on weekends because New Covenant has church services. But people still get hungry on weekends, so we have a weekend crew that serves hot soup, sack lunches, and coffee out of a van. (This is Jeff's report on a cold, snowy weekend--and a demonstration of why we need our new home!)

*"Another successful weekend for DBSK. An anonymous donor came by Saturday and gave us an envelope with \$500 (10 \$50 bills). We made an excellent soup. Saturday was not real busy but not too slow. Sunday morning we woke up to a lot of snow....I've heard 8 inches but it sure looked like more to me. After shoveling out my driveway and the area in front of the van Alex*

and I headed out to New Covenant. Beth called and reported the parking lot at her condo complex was still un-plowed so she couldn't make it. The other scheduled volunteers were a grad student from Mississippi and a group of students with a small car so I knew they wouldn't make it in. No problem, on really slow days, two volunteers can manage.

I let Alex do all the heavy lifting of the soup and sandwiches (he's bigger, younger, and fitter than me) and we headed off to the Habitat for Humanity parking lot. When we got there, Dave had arrived with a heavy-duty snow blower, and he cleared off a big enough area for us to park the van and to set up without having us and our guests standing around in a foot of snow I served the soup and Alex did the sack lunches. It was slow but fairly steady. Lots of people came back for seconds (and thirds) on the soup. Many compliments on the soup and thanks for our being there. People were in a good mood and it was almost a festive atmosphere. It was still snowing but it wasn't cold compared to the last few weekends. The Salvation Army bus came and a bunch of guys got out to get some food."

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Kids support Daily Bread too. Miss Macak's and Mrs. Thompson's second graders at Holy Cross School had a bake sale for the Backpack Project. The Sud children collected one hundred pounds of food as well as lots of supplies for the backpacks. And Nico and Isa Arizaga hosted a Christmas caroling party and raised \$52 for Daily Bread. Holy Cross students walk over every Tuesday, even on the coldest days, proudly carrying gallons of milk and bags of fresh fruit that are very much appreciated by our guests. Abby Miller filled treat bags for the children who come to Daily Bread. Kind children, lots of confetti...



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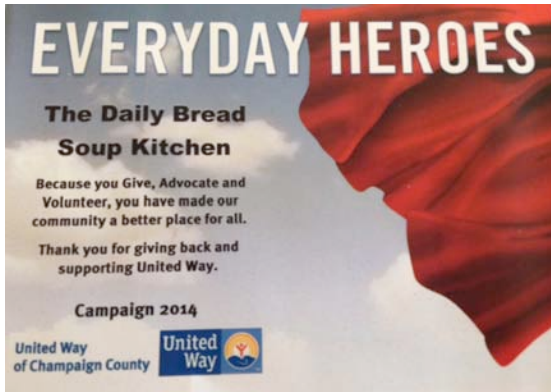
One of our regular guests came in pushing another guest in a wheelchair one cold, snowy day. He found them both a seat and then asked if a volunteer could help him get a plate for the man in the wheelchair. After we brought them both plates, we noticed that the man in the wheelchair was having trouble feeding himself. Soon we looked and saw that the guest was gently feeding the man in the wheelchair. "Does your friend need any help," we asked. "Oh, he's not my friend," he said. "I don't know him, but I saw that he was having a hard time moving his wheelchair on the street so I pushed him here." Noticing our looks of surprise, he added "I took care of my father for a long time so it's easy for me to feed him. I just hope that someone takes care of me when I need help." The two men left together, the one pushing the other back to his home at Eden Place.



One was black, the other man was white. Lots of confetti thrown around that day!

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The Highdive opened its doors on January 31<sup>st</sup> for the 1st Annual Daily Bread Trivia Night Fundraiser. A special thanks to Matt Roeschley for all his hard work arranging for the benefit. A grand time was had by everyone who came out on a cold, snowy night to compete in trivia, especially the team of Wednesday volunteers who won third place! (Undoubtedly, they threw confetti!)



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Daily Bread is now a United Way agency. Thanks to United Way for their support of our mission. Thanks to everyone who designated Daily Bread in their donations this year. And an early thanks to everyone who will designate Daily Bread in the next United Way appeal!

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A letter we recently received:

*Good evening everyone,*

*My name is Max. My brother passed away last February at the age of 27. He was a Marine and fulltime student who was living in Mahomet for a few short months preceding his death. In those months he encountered some serious life difficulties and found himself humbly visiting your center in need.*

*Days after his passing, my brother had people donating in his honor to an account meant to help us cover costs for his service and burial. The donations exceeded our needs and I found myself in a strong position to give back to those that once helped my loved brother in his time of need. This is where you come in...*

*I have \$500 dollars that I would like to give to your pantry/soup kitchen in honor of my brother. God Bless and happy Holidays, Max*

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Volunteers needed! We are looking for someone who can operate a computer, scan and file articles as DBSK's historian. We are also looking for individuals who would like to help with raising funds for the new building. Contact Stevie Bennett ([katie983@aol.com](mailto:katie983@aol.com)) or Ellen Harms ([ellenharms@aol.com](mailto:ellenharms@aol.com)) for more information. (fyi, new volunteers are greeted with lots of confetti!)

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**Lastly, an invitation! As most of you know, Daily Bread has recently purchased a new home at 118 N. First St., Champaign. The new place will allow our weekend crew to serve a hot meal in a warm building rather than soup from a van parked in a snow packed lot. The new place will let us happily accept and store forty turkeys. Plans for renovation are almost finished, and we would like to invite anyone interested to stop by on Sunday, April 19 from 3-5 for a 'Before Construction Open House.' Cookies and punch, only! We'll save the champagne for when the renovation is finished. And then we'll really throw confetti!**

**P.S. DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED,  
ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!!**

**Daily Bread Soup Kitchen PO BOX 648, Champaign IL 61824-0648**

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**P.O. Box 648**  
**Champaign, IL 61824-0648**

## **Champaign-Urbana Empty Bowls Sixth Annual Benefit and Raffle for Daily Bread**

Silvercreek Restaurant  
402 North Race Street, Urbana  
Wednesday, April 1, 3:30-6 PM

\$20 Adults/ \$10 Children  
Includes a handcrafted bowl  
and gourmet soup and bread

Tickets available at the event  
For more info: [facebook.com/cuemptybowls](https://www.facebook.com/cuemptybowls)  
Or contact: [susangarner@hotmail.com](mailto:susangarner@hotmail.com)

**It's a lovely, lovely evening;  
please plan to join us and support DBSK.**

