

Soup Scoop

Volume 24
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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 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.

***"A dream you dream alone is just a dream; a dream you dream together is reality."
--John Lennon***

Many of you must be wondering about what's happening at Daily Bread's new home. Certainly many of our volunteers and guests, like Annie, Joe, Ruth, and Elaine, are wondering. In fact, two guests showed up at the new building for lunch last week! Sadly, the soup wasn't bubbling at 118 N. First Street. But we hope to get the soup heated up over there soon.

As a loyal Daily Bread volunteer or supporter, we want to update you on the status of our new building and engage your help in making DBSK's dream of a permanent home a reality. If you are a new reader of this newsletter, we hope that you read on and let us tell you about Daily Bread and the new home we hope to move into soon.

As many of you know, last fall we purchased the old Emerald City building at 118 N. First Street in Champaign. Since then we've worked with an architect to create the best, most efficient, (and cheapest) design for the new space. This hasn't been easy. Someone once said something about "too many cooks..." Well, here at DBSK we have a lot of cooks, very good cooks--and these cooks had great ideas about what our new facility should look like.

Fifteen designs and many months later, we have finally arrived at a consensus! We are going with Plan #13.

Plan #13 gives us a wonderful working kitchen, ample storage space for all the food available from our generous community, room to increase our number of guests by a third, restrooms in the front of the building, and a big front window that brightens up the room. Best of all, in a new building we can serve a hot meal to our guests seven days a week.

But, as anyone who has done a renovation knows, all of this takes money. Lots of money! To make this renovation happen, **we need to raise \$300,000!**

That's a LOT of money!



Daily Bread is unique in that it runs entirely on volunteer labor. We pay NO salaries. We have no administrator, no paid fund-raiser, no bookkeeper, no secretary. Volunteers do all those jobs. Because of this volunteer labor, we currently are able to do what we do (which is serve **153,000** meals a year to the hungry of Champaign-Urbana) on a budget of approximately \$13,000 a month. We are able to serve 200 guests a hot meal and give them a sack lunch for dinner for \$100 a day in food costs. (Obviously, we have other expenses such as rent, garbage, utilities, insurance, etc.) And we raise that money entirely through local donations and a few local grants. Many of you, most of you, donate to DBSK, and it's your donations and the donations of many others that keep us going month after month.

Now we are asking more. We are asking every volunteer, every supporter who shares this passion for what we do, to dig a little deeper and make a special donation to our building fund. Small or big (and obviously the bigger, the better) we hope that everyone can share ownership in this new endeavor.

Many people think of Champaign-Urbana as a sophisticated and affluent community and are unaware of the number of our neighbors who struggle with issues of food insecurity and hunger. According to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, the poverty rate for Champaign County is 23.4%, third highest in the state of Illinois. There are many, many hungry men, women, and children in Champaign-Urbana whom we see every day. Daily Bread serves over 200 hot meals and hands out at least that many sack lunches each Monday through Friday. Because we are currently located at New Covenant Fellowship, which is unavailable to us on weekends, we serve sack lunches, soup, and coffee out of a mobile van on Saturday and Sunday. Hunger doesn't go away on weekends, and bologna sandwiches aren't terribly appealing on a cold, winter day or a sweltering, summer day. Our new home will allow us to feed our guests a hot nutritious meal seven days a week.

I'm pretty sure that John Lennon didn't write the words, "*Imagine there's no hunger, it's easy if you try...*" when he wrote his famous song. But I'm guessing that he would have been supportive of what we do. Ringo Starr, his fellow Beatle, was much more succinct when he commented, "*Now let's give some bread to get the hungry fed.*"

When St. Jude's Catholic Worker House closed their long time soup kitchen six years ago and many of those loyal volunteers united to form Daily Bread, Delores Sofranko coined the motto "Daily Bread, We Will Rise Again." No one at that time imagined how fast and how high Daily Bread would rise. It's because of the passion and the devotion and the energy of all of its volunteers and supporters that Daily Bread is the success that it is today. And it's that passion, that devotion, that energy that will lead us to our new home.

As the Beatles sang, "*We get by with a little help from our friends.*" If we all dream together, our dream of a new home for Daily Bread can become a reality.





How You Can Help

Obviously, the most important way you can help is by making a donation. We happily accept checks mailed to: **Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, PO Box 648, Champaign, IL 61824-0648**. Donations can also be made on line at our website:

dailybreadsoupkitchen.com

As an incentive to donate, Andy Sofranko, DBSK's undisputed Soup King, has agreed to donate his own special homemade soup to five lucky donors determined by a soup lottery. Winners' names will be drawn from a soup pot!

Three years ago we raised several thousand dollars with a competition among our daily volunteer crews by seeing which day could collect the most dollar bills with the mint letters D, B, S, or K. Challenge your friends, your family, your neighbors, your book club, your Sunday School class, etc., to collect those bills. Just imagine what 300,000 one-dollar bills would look like. (Hint: there are no one dollar bills with the letter S.)

We would like to invite community and religious leaders to serve at Daily Bread and see first hand what we do. If you have a friend or neighbor who is well known in the community, please ask them if they would like to visit Daily Bread and pass out desserts to our guests. If you have a pastor, a rabbi, a priest who is concerned about the poor of our community, please ask them if they would like to come to Daily Bread, lead our guests in prayer, and serve them soup. If you would like to come to see for yourself what we do and pass out plates--or wash some dishes--let us know. Ruthann Evans will be keeping a calendar of guests. Please contact her at mail2ruthann@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to sign up a guest.

We are also asking any of you who are on Facebook to friend us and to ask your Facebook friends to friend us as well. Although we are not the most sophisticated group when it comes to social media, we are trying to use social media to extend our reach and share with people what we do at Daily Bread.

Gather up your neighbors, your poker group, your extended family, and host a party or get-together and pass around a soup pot! We'll provide an entertaining speaker to tell your guests about what's happening at Daily Bread! (No guarantees, but the Tuesday crew has been known to sing, and the Wednesday crew dances!) Contact Karen Pickard for more information at kkpickard@gmail.com.

How Others Are Helping

Champaign-Urbana Empty Bowls sponsored their 2nd annual Benefit and Raffle for Daily Bread and raised almost \$8,000. Silvercreek Restaurant and owner Allen Strong provided the setting and the soup (which was delicious!!); local potters provided the handcrafted bowls, and everyone went home with a full stomach and a lovely reminder of a special evening. Our thanks to committee members Stephanie Sutton, Linda Weiner, Colleen Freund, and Susan Garner.

Young people care about the hungry of Champaign. Art students at the High School of St. Thomas More donated \$1,740 from their Annual Empty Bowls Supper. Lana Heggemeyer's Girl Scout troop donated Girl Scout cookies on Girl Scout Cookie Day, and all of our guests got a cookie! Westview Brownie troop decorated lunch bags. Our favorite: One little brownie drew cherries all over her bag and left a note that said "You should always put a special cherry on top of everything." At Daily Bread we try to do a little extra; we try to give our guests that special cherry on top.

Food comes from all sorts of places. Peace Lutheran Church donated 300 servings of delicious chili, a favorite of our guests. Delta Gamma Sorority closed for the summer and donated the food left over in their freezer. We received 500 pounds of food from FAR residence hall on campus. Nancy Yeagle donated food from the recently closed Great Impasta. Meanwhile, fresh produce continues to arrive at our back door, so our guests are feasting on wonderful salads these days.

We are used to seeing Holy Cross students arrive with bags of fresh fruit (always a treat for our guests) and a wagonful of milk. But we were very surprised to see the Holy Cross Sixth graders arrive with a check for \$5000, a gift to Daily Bread from the Meyers Charitable Foundation. Thanks to all the Holy Cross students who arrive every week with big bags and bigger smiles--and a special thanks to the Meyers Charitable Foundation!



Daily Bread is indeed a melting pot of both volunteers and guests. There is a Persian tradition that on the 40th day after a death, food is given to the poor. On Friday, May 22, Fouri Archer donated food to DBSK forty days after the death of her brother in his honor. On that day our guests feasted on 400 pieces of chicken and potato wedges from Kentucky Fried Chicken. A blessing for our guests, a blessing for a loving sister and a brother.



Kappa Kappa Gamma alums chose Daily Bread as the recipient of their annual flower sale and raised \$5000 for the soup kitchen. Sweet indeed!

The rain that cut the Illinois Marathon short was a disappointment for many, many runners. But it was a boon for DBSK. The Illinois Marathon organizers donated boxes and boxes of bananas and granola bars to us after so many runners weren't able to finish the race. Bananas are a big hit at DBSK because they are easy to eat for guests with dental issues.

Because of our ability to stretch a dollar and because we have many expenses, we are always delighted at donations of cash. Special thanks to Countryside United Methodist Church in Urbana for their donation of \$1559 from a flea market sale. And also thanks to Dean and Nancy Olsen, who are having a garage sale on August 15th with the proceeds to go to Daily Bread.

DBSK welcomes the arrival the first Tuesday of the month of the Fairbury/Forrest crew. Ken Roth, aka 'the Turkey Guy' because he provides DBSK with turkeys on a regular basis, and his friends show up with a truck full of frozen ground pork and sausage as well as a host of other foods. Meat is always a treasured commodity at a soup kitchen, so our cooks have become very adept at creative uses of pork!

And once again, we want to thank Nico and Isa Hernandez for raising \$244.25 at their annual lemonade stand and donating their profits to Daily Bread! They were so successful selling lemonade that we would love to add them to our fundraising committee!



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



One More Thing..

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 eight hundred generously filled backpacks that we gave to our appreciative guests. Right now many stores have great bargains on backpacks. We would encourage everyone to shop early (and shop often). **We will NOT be giving backpacks to children this year.** The Backpack Project will only have backpacks for men and women. Look for more information in the November newsletter.