

Soup Scoop

Volume 25
November, 2015

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. We look forward to the day when we will serve lunch at our new home at 118 N. First Street.

“Christmas is Hope and Tenderness...”

Pope Francis once said of Christmas, "For me Christmas is hope and tenderness. Don't be afraid of tenderness. May the hope and tenderness of Christmas shake off our indifference."

When Pope Francis chose to eat lunch at a soup kitchen rather than in the halls of Congress during his September visit, his message of love and caring for the poor and hungry of the world resonated with all of us at Daily Bread--Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Muslim, believer, non-believer. For it is at our own soup kitchen that many of us, guest, volunteer, supporter, find hope and tenderness at Christmas and throughout all the year.

“Everyone Has a Story...”

All of us, guests and volunteers, have found our way to Daily Bread in a myriad of ways. All of us have our own unique stories that have brought us to this place where we share in a meal. Some of our guests are truly homeless; most are not. Some struggle with dependency on drugs or alcohol. Some struggle with the demons of mental illness. Some come every day for months and years; others come briefly as they are passing through. Some come pushing baby buggies. Some come in wheel chairs. Many come for a quick lunch before heading back to a job. Some come because they are lonely. Some come because they have nowhere else to go. Some come in search of hope; some come in search of tenderness. All of our guests look forward to a hot meal.

Our volunteers come for their own unique reasons as well. Some come because of a strong faith. Some come because of a commitment to social justice. Some come because their friends come. Some come to forget; some come to remember. Some come in search of hope; some come with tenderness in their hearts. All of us are glad we have found our way here.

We all come to Daily Bread with our own stories, and together we compose the unique story that is Daily Bread. Together we are the Daily Bread community.



A few of our stories:

A story about two loyal Daily Bread volunteers: Dick and Stevie are the two hardest working volunteers at Daily Bread. Dick is in charge of food procurement, a job that finds him driving all over town picking up donated food. He's at Urbana Garden Restaurant at closing picking up donated soup. He's on campus picking up food left over from football games or residential dorm cafeterias. He's at Sam's or Aldi's buying a week's worth of bologna and cheese for sack lunches. He's at Eastern Illinois Foodbank and GFS and Hendrick House, anywhere that has food that's available to feed our guests. And when he's not picking food up, he's finding places for it in our freezer or refrigerator, on our shelves, and in our storage sheds.

Stevie is Daily Bread's Treasurer, a huge job. She's the one who has been opening all the checks that have come in for the renovation of our new building (and that's the fun part of her job!). She's also the person who pays the bills, keeps the books and records, balances the checkbook, and keeps us on a financially sound footing, never an easy job for a non-profit that operates entirely on volunteer labor and is funded only by donations. But that's not all Stevie does. She has also taken on the job of 'keeper of the freezer' and can be found every Wednesday deep in the freezer, rearranging, organizing, and making sure that all that wonderful, donated food Dick brings in gets used in a timely fashion.

But there is more to Dick and Stevie's story than just dedication and hard work. Dick and Stevie began working at Daily Bread after the death of their oldest daughter Marcy. Marcy struggled for years with mental health and addiction issues, and her parents struggled for years trying to help her. Although Marcy was never able to find her way to health, she did find hope and tenderness at a soup kitchen in Arizona, for which Dick and Stevie were very grateful. It was their love of Marcy and their gratitude to that soup kitchen that led Dick and Stevie to Daily Bread.

But that's still not the end of the story. Because of the tenderness that Marcy found at that unnamed soup kitchen in Arizona and the peace and healing that Dick and Stevie found at Daily Bread, they have donated a very generous sum of money in honor of their daughter.

Their generous donation was a big part of the reason that we were able to buy the Emerald City building for Daily Bread's future location.



A story about a guest: *A guest came in late in the serving. When he asked for a piece of pie, he was told that there was none left. He was then asked what he would like instead. "A hug," he said, and volunteer Judy happily complied. Judy wasn't afraid of tenderness. Perhaps the guest found a bit of hope.*

A story about a guest server: #11 Dee Brown, former Illinois basketball star and current assistant to the athletic director, was invited to Daily Bread as a guest server. He signed autographs, posed for pictures, carried trays, and passed out 238 desserts to excited guests. And he left saying that he would be back, next time 'out of love.'



A story told recently by Pope Francis: *“At the General Audience the other day there was a young mother behind a barrier with a baby that was just a few months old. The child was crying its eyes out as I came past. The mother was caressing it. I said: madam, I think the child’s hungry. Yes, it’s probably time... she replied. Please give it something to eat! I said. She was shy and didn’t want to breastfeed in public while the Pope was passing. I wish to say the same to humanity: give people something to eat! That woman had milk to give to her child; we have enough food in the world to feed everyone. I would like to repeat to humanity what I said to that mother: give food to those who are hungry!”*

“Never miss an opportunity to pass around the collection basket...”

You may have noticed that for the third mailing in a row we’ve included a return envelope. In the past we’ve included only one envelope a year, on the assumption that there is nothing more frustrating than making a donation to a charity only to find another request in the return mail! But we are eager to begin construction on Daily Bread’s new home at 118 N. First Street, and we were reminded of Father Feeney’s words about collection baskets. As we get ever closer to our fund raising goal of \$300,000, we are once again asking those of you who have not yet donated to please consider joining with us in our effort to renovate so that we can increase our seating capacity, serve a hot meal seven days a week, and have storage for all the food that is available in our community.

To the many, many of you who have already donated, we are incredibly grateful and humbled by your generosity and support. However, if you feel so inclined to use that envelope to make still another donation, I’m pretty sure that Treasurer Stevie would be happy to accept it! We are, after all, still buying food, still paying rent, still paying for garbage pickup, etc. We are still in the business of feeding people a hot, delicious, nutritious meal every day at New Covenant. (Another quick story. One guest said as he was carrying his empty tray to the garbage, “I don’t know why you all call yourself a soup kitchen. You serve all kinds of wonderful food. You should be a food kitchen.”)



Here’s the latest on the remodeling project. We can finally say that we are on our way! We have sent the plans to the city and public health for final approval, and, as soon as that approval comes through, we will send them out for bids. So, keep the checks coming. We’ve heard a rumor that one volunteer told her children that all she wanted for Christmas was a check for Daily Bread. God bless her. God bless all of you who have become a part of the Daily Bread story!

Pope Francis also said “These days there is a lot of poverty in the world, and that’s a scandal when we have so many riches and resources to give to everyone. We all have to think about how we can become a little poorer.”

“Christmas don’t mean much if the only thing you find in your sock is a hole...”

For the seventh year in a row it’s Backpack time at Daily Bread. DBSK will once again celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. We will NOT be giving out children’s backpacks this year. The Champaign-Urbana community is very generous to children at Christmas through such projects as Shop with a Cop, Salvation Army Toy Store, toy drives, etc. But the men and women we see daily are rarely remembered. For many, these backpacks will be their only presents.



Backpacks will be given away on **Friday, Dec. 18** beginning at 10:00 am. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks in two hours. We're assuming that we will need at least that many this year.

Backpacks should be stuffed with toiletries such as deodorant, hand lotion for hands chapped by the cold, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving cream, etc., cold weather items such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, tee shirts, long underwear, and regular underwear. Other items could include hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, small fleece blankets, candy, gum, and food items. Because these packs will be a special gift for our guests, we are asking that all items be **NEW**. We are asking that all backpacks be new or nearly new as well. Because of space limitations we can't accept donations of used clothing.

All backpacks should be labeled with the gender and size of recipient (i.e., Man-XL). Last year most of our guests, both men and women, requested at least a size Large, most preferred XL, and there is also a need for some 2X and 3X bags.

Filled backpacks should be dropped off beginning the week of **Monday Dec. 7**. Backpacks can be dropped off at Daily Bread, 124 West White, Champaign, during the week from 9-1. We would encourage you to use the back door when dropping off backpacks. Backpacks can also be dropped off at Ellen Harms' (705 S. Elm Blvd. 356-2551) or at Pam Hagle's (713 S. Elm Blvd. 359-3245). Please make sure that you leave your name when you drop off backpacks. Tax forms will be available at drop off sites.

Filling a backpack is a wonderful activity for families, grandparents and grandkids, church groups, book clubs, service organizations, scout groups, bridge clubs, social clubs, classrooms, etc. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participates in this annual project and helps bring some holiday joy to our guests at the soup kitchen.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call or e-mail Pam at 359-3245 or phigle@aol.com.



Special Recognition

As part of our effort to show the community what life is like at the soup kitchen, we have been inviting community leaders to visit Daily Bread and work as Guest Servers for a day. A special thanks goes to everyone who participated in this endeavor. We can assure you that they all performed admirably, that our guests were delighted to meet them, and that they all rocked their aprons! (Not pictured are Katie Thomas, Linda Hamilton, and Laura Weis.)



Mike Haile and Tony Clements



Mark Crys of Martin Hood



Mayor Deborah Feinen



Dr. James Leonard



Rev. John McIntosh



Gary Wackerlin



#11 Dee Brown



St. Sen. Scott Bennett



Joan Dixon



Father Matt Deptula



Stevie Jay

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Friday, December 18: Annual Backpack Giveaway Day
2. Saturday, February 6: "CU's Got Talent," a fundraiser presented by Champaign West Rotary to help four local charities (including Daily Bread) achieve their mission.
3. Wednesday, April 6: Annual Champaign-Urbana Empty Bowls Benefit for Daily Bread at Silvercreek Restaurant in Urbana.

Check out our website at www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com for more details.

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

