

The Soup Scoop

Volume 4
April 2010

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission Statement

The mission of 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.

(Recap for First time Newsletter Recipients: Daily Bread Soup Kitchen was formed in August, 2009, when St. Jude's Catholic Worker House Steering Committee made the controversial decision to close the long time soup kitchen. Many Catholic Worker House volunteers remained strongly committed to the mission of feeding the hungry of the Champaign community and banded together to create Daily Bread.

Currently Daily Bread is providing sack lunches out of the facilities of **New Covenant Fellowship at 124 W. White**, at the corner of Randolph and White Street in Champaign. Lunches are served **Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 12:30**. We are in the process of working with New Covenant on plans to use their facilities to provide a hot lunch during the cold winter months. Meanwhile, we dream of having our own permanent facility.)

Where We're At Now...

Last August, after the former Catholic Worker House volunteers regrouped, recommitted to feeding the hungry of Champaign, and reorganized as Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, our first job was to find a new home. This turned out to be quite difficult. The many churches and organizations we approached, while all supportive of our mission, were reluctant to open their doors on a daily basis to the less fortunate of our community. So we were excited when New Covenant Fellowship, just down the street from our former home, agreed to work with us.

New Covenant approached our new partnership with enthusiasm but also trepidation. In the beginning New Covenant agreed to let us use their kitchen to make sandwiches, and their front doorway to hand out sack lunches to guests who lined up in the street. They cleared two shelves in the kitchen and two shelves in the refrigerator for our supplies. Their building itself, along with its bathrooms, was off limits to our guests. We, and our guests, were clearly on probation. However, after having so many doors closed to us, we were thrilled to have New Covenant's doors open, even if, at first, they were only opened a crack!

But our probation period was mercifully brief. The first day we served thirty sack lunches from the doorway. The numbers increased every day as the word spread that the soup kitchen was back in business. After a first week of exemplary behavior on everyone's part, New Covenant opened its doors to the large entry foyer and allowed our guests to come inside to get their sack lunches. The bathrooms were made available as well.

As the numbers of hungry we were feeding grew and as our supplies began overflowing the shelves and the refrigerator, New Covenant cleared more shelf and refrigerator space and eventually cleared out a whole Sunday School classroom and gave it to us to use for storage.

As fall turned into winter and our guests began arriving shivering from the cold, New Covenant agreed to allow us to let guests in early, serve coffee and hot chocolate, and set up tables and chairs in the foyer so that guests could sit and eat in a warm space.

As we worked throughout the winter with Public Health to find a way to safely provide hot soup and salad to our guests, New Covenant worked with us to make this possible.

And last month, as our menu and our number of daily guests both expanded, New Covenant agreed to allow us to serve our guests lunch in their large Fellowship Hall. In a few short months

we've come from a sack lunch handout at New Covenant's front door to a sit down meal in the Fellowship Hall where the hungry of Champaign can gather around tables and eat a meal with dignity. Today we're serving 100 guests a day hot soup, salad, sandwiches, fruit, chips, and desserts in a warm and loving atmosphere. In the past the majority of our guests were the very poor and the homeless or the homeless with mental health issues, drug, or alcohol issues. But today, with the strain on the economy, many of our guests are quite often the 'working poor,' fellow citizens who have jobs and make enough money to pay their rent, but not always enough for food.

There's an old saying 'if you give an inch, they'll take a mile...' We're guessing that the New Covenant people sometimes feel like that about Daily Bread. In fact, a pastor was heard to say (albeit with a smile) 'Those Daily Bread folks, you give them some space, they immediately fill it up and start looking for more.' We can't say anything except 'Guilty as Charged!' No one should be surprised that we are currently exploring options for upgrading the New Covenant kitchen to bring it up to the stringent Public Health standards so that we can serve a full hot lunch every day.

Actually, there's a Bible verse that best describes the relationship between Daily Bread and New Covenant. According to Sirach 6:14, "*A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure.*" New Covenant Fellowship has turned out to be truly a faithful friend to Daily Bread these many months. New Covenant has provided us and the guests we feed daily with a sturdy shelter. New Covenant has become indeed a treasured friend to Daily Bread and to the guests we serve. And we are very grateful.

(For those of you scratching your head and wondering about the book of Sirach, Sirach is one of the fourteen books of the Apocrypha. These are Old Testament books included in the Bibles used by Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, but not in the Bibles used by most Protestant Christians and Jews. However, Sirach is also occasionally quoted in the Jewish Talmud. Daily Bread, as an ecumenical, non-denominational group, is happy to find inspiration in many places.)

KUDOS to Us

Daily Bread was honored to be chosen as the recipient of the 21st Annual City of Champaign Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. **2010 Susan Freiberg Humanitarian Award** presented by the City of Champaign Human Relations Commission. The award was presented on January 15, 2010, at the 9th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and was accepted on behalf of Daily Bread by Ellen McDowell. In announcing the award, Joan Walls, Deputy City Manager for Community Relations for the city of Champaign wrote, "Daily Bread



Soup Kitchen has made many contributions to our Community with long hours of dedicated work. We are very proud of you!' The plaque presented to Mrs. McDowell quotes Dr. King, "You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love, and you can be that servant."

(FYI, Daily Bread does in fact have a number of volunteers who are well up on the second theory of thermodynamics as well as other esoteric bits of knowledge. As to hearts full of grace and souls generated by love, we are a work in progress as we strive daily to live up to that ideal.)

Christmas BackPack Project

For years at Christmas at St. Judes we gave our guests paper bags filled with toiletries, socks, and other practical gifts that were donated by generous members of the community. This Christmas volunteer Stevie Bennett noticed that many of our guests arrived daily carrying their belongings in paper or plastic bags. Wouldn't it be nice, she mused, if we could give everyone a filled backpack for Christmas. Thanks to many, many generous people, that's what we were able to do. After the Backpack program was announced in the December newsletter and in the News



Gazetter, filled backpacks began arriving in droves until we literally had mountains of backpacks piled in our storeroom. We were overwhelmed with the number of stuffed backpacks that were donated, as were the over 300 recipients who received their backpacks just in time for Christmas. Since then, every day at Daily Bread we see our guests arriving with the sturdy backpacks donated by the following people and groups. So many backpacks arrived that we were not always able to get the names of donors. If your name is not on this list, we are sorry for the omission.

Martha Moore, Jill Schneider, Mary Laviviere, Kristine Chalifoux, Georgia Morgan, Sharon Schwengel, Sophia VanArsdell, Jean Claussen, Kathy Murray, Carle Surgicenter, Kathy and Greg Hatch, Susan Pride, Bette Holmes, Michael Lechowicz, Judy Fane, Bianca Green, Beth and Mike Brunk, Lisa Pence, Meredith Riegel, Boys Scout Holy Cross Troup 9, Beth Dighton, John Cain III, Jane Thron, Tanya Deckert, Jacqueline Hannah, Deanna Wright, Shirley Dye, Martin Hood Friese, Brent Hettinger, St. Philomena's Church, 7th Grade CCD, Beth Woodside, Kari Imlay, Jennifer Gentry, Chuck and Betty Baccus, Leyerle Family, Kathy Dwyer, Wendy Graves, Jennifer Massey, Charles Gibson, Dave Briscoe, Cindy Durbin, Amy Robison, Girl Scout #2242, Deb Montgomery, Carolyn Ragsdale, Hayden and Alicia Webster, Jane Freyfogle, Joan Reeves, Keck Family, Pat and Mike Marlow, Greta Overeiner, Karen Kane, Lois Rooney, Vevi Brannon, Carolyn Mullaly, Colleen Brodie, Mary Smith, Connie Samson, Marnie Fuesting, Sylvia Dunning, Janet Payonk, Kim Biehl, Georgia King, Marilyn Lindholm, Skip Eissfeldt, Dorothy Lawrence, John Noonan, Jane Oldham, Laura Perrero, Jane Hogan, Carole Williamson, Joan Zernich, Mary Stampini, Laura Helm, Lori Nicholson, Lesley Millar, Aidan Jane Millar-Nicholson, Jane Hays, Bill Dewey, Jan Kane, Gale and Sue Kirkpatrick, Eagles Motorcycle Club, Maggie Cornyn, De Cornyn, Zarina Hock, Laura Larkin, Sharif Islam, Patty Hart, Georgia King, Ed and Kay Schaller, Darleen Hanes, Sumiko Yoneji, Ramsbottom Family, Teri, Erin, and Maeve Selin, Kathy Thorson, Barbara Rothermel, Dave Tomlinson, Paul Meade, Sue Leskis, Nancy Hatch, Sharon Conry, Jeannine Grumish, Marie Slattery, Ellen Harms, Johanna Harms, Judy Nowak, Jill Bullington, Donna O'Brian, Judy Griffin, Rosemary Sabbia, Mary Kay Pleck, Linda Sloat, Glenda Henderson, Gina Stocking, Ginsburg-Sullivan Family, Clare and Alan Haussermann, Cathy Thurston, Janet Stivers, Sinai Temple, Pat Hardy, Father Tom Royer, University Place Christian Church, Chapel of St. John the Divine, Engineering Career Services, Marcia Clifford, Nancy Williams, John Clifford, Patrick Clifford, Jeanne Dau and Debbie Schmidt.

Questions/Comments/etc

If you have any questions about this newsletter, if you are getting duplicate newsletters, if you would like your name to be deleted from the newsletter list, if there is specific information you would like to read about Daily Bread, or if you know other people who would enjoy receiving information about Daily Bread, please contact Ellen Harms (ellenharms@aol.com) or Gina Stocking (socks5@aol.com) Any and all suggestions are welcome.

Where Do We Get Our Food?

Many of you have wondered where we get the food we serve every day. And the answer is...many, many places. The Eastern Illinois Food Bank is a wonderful resource for us, one that we visit many times a week. Every day Urbana Gardens Restaurant provides us with two large containers of soup. Jerry's IGA at both Round Barn and Kirby provides us with bread, desserts, fresh fruit and veggies, and deli sandwiches. Panera donates bread, bagels, and desserts. These are our standby's. But that's not the whole story. The students at Holy Cross School frequently walk over as a class and bring donations of gallons of milk, desserts, fresh fruit. Judy Sehy recently celebrated a BIG birthday and instead of presents asked her friends to donate food to Daily Bread. They showed up with a van load full. Nitaya Thai Restaurant in Champaign donated and served an entire lunch for our guests one happy day. The Esquire donated corned beef and cabbage for guests to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Tony Perissini shows up every Tuesday with bunches of bananas. The Urbana Champaign Friends Meeting brings sandwiches once a month. The Community United Church of Christ Youth Group prepared sandwiches for us. Generous friends, new and old, show up often at the Soup Kitchen with donations. Bags of food show up regularly on Ellen McDowell's doorstep. Manna from heaven, indeed!!!

How You Can Help

Basically there are two things that Daily Bread is always needing. The first is volunteers. It's not easy feeding around one hundred people in a ninety minute time period. New volunteers are always welcome to prepare and serve meals. We also are in need of individuals willing to pick up donated food at IGA and the Food Bank. If you would be interested in volunteering a couple of hours a week, we would welcome you with open arms!! (Actually, open arms may be an understatement! At the very least we would promise you a lifetime of free sandwiches!!) **If you are interested in volunteering at Daily Bread, contact Clare Haussermann at 359-8500. If you are interested in doing food pickup, contact Dick Bennett at 352-5065.** Clare and Dick will be happy to talk to you!

The second thing that Daily Bread is always needing is cash. Although much of the food we serve is donated, we still spend a large amount of money every month on meat, cheese, coffee, juice, paper goods. Every month we pay New Covenant for our share of the utilities we use. Every month we have garbage bills, insurance bills, etc., etc. Every month we set aside a set amount of money for assistance that we use to help guests with needs like state ID's and bus tokens. We are in the final stages of planning the remodeling of the New Covenant kitchen, an endeavor on which Bob Goss has worked diligently to insure the most economical use of our funds.

Ergo, donations are always, always welcome. We are very grateful for any and all donations. However, we would like to encourage anyone who would like to donate on a regular basis to join the Bread of the Month Club. To continue to expand our mission, we need an income stream that is reliable and sustainable. You can send your contributions monthly, yearly, semiannually. If you are interested, just fill out the form or **call Ellen McDowell at 356-7101** for more information.

Yes, I want to Join the Bread of the Month Club

Name: _____ Address _____

Amount: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail To:

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

Special Thanks

We apologize for making many of our readers pull out their reading glasses to read the following **Thank You list of new donors**, but we're elated that so many new people are joining in our efforts to provide a meal to the hungry of Champaign. To our repeat donors (you know who you are, as do we) and to anyone we have inadvertently omitted, we are more than grateful. To everyone who has given so generously, we thank you so much.

Coletta Ackermann, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Altstetter, Shirley and Dan Anderson, Robert and Julie Antwerp, Aleta Arnold, Fred G. Attebury, Janice Bahr, Dr. and Mrs. Don Bartlett, Dale and Nancy Benz, Peggy Berger, Carol Pike Bergeson, Rich and Connie Blazier, William and Mary Jane Blixen, Mark and Lisa Bluhm, Frank Boland, John and Julia Boland, Mary Margaret Bolton, Barbara and Walter Bozeman, Jill Bullington, Scott and Katy Burner, Roger and Sara Burrus, Mary J Byrnes, Richard and Josephine Cachia, Roy and Ann Campbell, Anne Cavanaugh, Bill and Margaret Clary, Peggy Patton, Dana and Patricia Clifford, Carl and Emma Coad, Rosemary Coffey, Julia Ann Condit, Richard and Louise Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crain, Earl and Linda Creutzburg, Clark and A.Kokko Cunningham, Mary Lou and Bill Daniel, Robert and Susan Danley, Dean and Jeanne Dau, Dan Daugherty, Judith Everell, Donald and Eileen Dickerson, Nancy A Dietrich, Nickolas and Heather Dillon, Paul and Pat Doebel, Patrick and Teresa Dorsey, Carl and Sandra Duderstadt, Julie and Dave Durdell, John Easley and Bernadette Feeney, Anne Ehrlich, Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, Angie and Denny Erswell, Robert and Mary Ann Espeseth, Charles and Ruthann Evans, Dale and Joyce Ewen, Kimberly Fairley, Steven and Suellen Fink, Carolyn Fisher, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Marna Fuesting, William and Cecilia Gaines, Kostas and Janet Galaras, Mary Lee Garrison, Mildred Gerard, Thomas and Kathryn good, Anand and Sowmya Gopesh, Jerry and Cathy Gorman, John and Peggy Goyette, Michelle Grabow, Mrs. John Grady, Ms. Lois Grimason-Hilton, Richard and Dianne Haines, Lippold and Beth Haken, C.F. and R.J. Hardig, Violet Harris, Sue and Al Harter, Greg and Kathy Hatch, Glenda Henderson, St. Mary K Hiemns, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hiller, Harry and Lois Hilton, Jennifer Hines, Mary Hirschfeld, Mr. and Mrs. James Hudson, Sharif Islam, Marcia Clifford and Jeffrey Jachowicz, Patricia Januszki, James and Ruth Jesso, Joan R Burke Trust, Douglas and Catherine Jones, Dr. Douglas Jones, John and Carol Kameron, Alice Kaufman, James Kearns, Habum Kim, Owen and Jean Kirby, John and Darlene Kiser, Dennis and M. Kathleen Klaeser, Bruce and Susan Kloth, Knights of Columbus, Rantoul Council, James and Barbara Kurley, Barry and Mary Lawrence, George and Karen Lewis, Dorthy Lierman, David and Cynthia Line, Wayne and Lorraine Loque, Raymond and Janet Luken, Gloria MacRae, David Madden, Mary E Malloy, Joseph and Leslie Manfredo, Joseph Matherly, James and Patricia Mayer, Maureen and John McCord, Donald and Alice McDuffee, Marcia Kay McDuffie, LaVerne and Donna Kaye McFadden, JoAnn McGrain, John and Kathleen McKenna, Rich and Jessica McMahan, Rita McMahan, Constance McNary, Dorothy Mikucki, Joe and Carol Miles, Rich and Dale Montanelli, Deb and Michael Montgomery, Tom Morelock, Paul and Diane Mortensen, Rev. Richard Mullen, Dr. Robert Mussey, Karl and Carol Muster, Patricia Neils, New Covenant Fellowship Workshop Fund, David and Mary Francis Newcomb, John and Mimi Newman, Rosann Noel, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nolan, Dr. and Mrs. Terry Noonan, Patricia and Patrick O'Donnell, Milton and Elizabeth Otto, Russell and Barbara Overholt, Joy and Richard Pace, M. Anantha and M. Nandini Pai, Sharada and S.S. Kumaran Panditi, Nalin Patel, Margaret Patton, Lois Pausch, Arthur and Carol Pesch, Gregory Petry, Janet Piccioli, Michael and Beatrice Pierce, James and Jani Piercy, Plants, Etc, Paul Plesko, Marcella Portewig, Nancy Lane Postula, Augie Poulsen, Laurel Prussing, Paul and Mary Quinlan, R. Ranga and Shantha R. Rao, Carol Rebeiz, Jeff Reeder, Antron Regen, R.W. and F.M. Richburg, Dr. Timothy and Mary Roberts, James and Barbara Rohr, Linda and John Ross, Sarah Rouse, Dr. and Mrs. Ron Russo, Carolyn Sands, Mary-Jean Sattazahn, Luanne Schinsel, Kyle and Jami Schmidt, Leonard and Deborah Schmidt, Patricia Schmitt, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Schneider, Jean Scott, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, Natalie Shields, Chris Slater-Vohs, Charles and Mary Kay Smith, Winton Solberg, Wanda Speers, Janet and Philip Sproat, Margaret Steward, Jack and Gina Stocking, C.J. and S.J. Stohr, Sunrise Charitable Foundation, Richard and Carolyn Taylor, Allison Thilmoney, Walt and Joan Tousey, Jim and Dorothy Trefzger, Martin and Amber Uribe, Robert and Julie Van Antwerp, Rodney and Ellen Vanous, Helen Vedder, Michael Vitoux, Alice G. Vuagniaux, Margaret Wash, Susan and Ian Westbury, Robert and Nancy Williams, Stacy and Cindy Wisegarver, Ralph and Greta Wolfe, Sharron Ann Wood, John and Cynthia Wright, Bernadette Zehr, Marty and Nan Zvonar

Other Special Thanks

The Peoria Diocese Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities, International Society of Arboriculture, Morning Cup and More, MBA Association, O'Brien Toyota of Urbana, Regency Beauty Institute, St. Boniface, St. Malachy Catholic Church, St. Mary's Church, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Sunrise Charitable Foundation, Urbana Champaign Friends Meeting, Vineyard Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, and Mrs. Hansen's First Grade Class at St. Matthews who decorated and sold snowmen and donated over \$600 to Daily Bread.

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
PO Box 648
Champaign, Il. 61824-0648

DAILY BREAD SPRING WISH LIST

Volunteers willing to drive and pick up donated food (a great opportunity to be helpful for a couple of hours a week.)

A LOT to build a permanent home on or a **BUILDING** that could be converted to a Soup Kitchen (It never hurts to dream...)

Bus Tokens

Food: Packaged lunch meat and cheese, packaged chips, cookies, crackers, fresh fruit such as apples, oranges, and bananas, milk, juice

Toiletries: Razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, feminine products

Sleeping bags

Bags: plastic grocery bags, storage bags

Items may be brought to Ellen McDowell's home,
710 S. Elm Blvd., Champaign

Any Questions?? Call or e-mail Ellen **356-7101**
(early am or evening) or ajmcdowe@illinois.edu

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