

Soup Scoop

Volume 8
March 2011

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission Statement

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.

(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 hot 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**. Meanwhile, we dream of having our own permanent facility.)

***“Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for a wonderful holiday season...”
The Daily Bread Volunteers***

The holidays have come and gone, the decorations are all packed away, we've survived the big blizzard, the snow has melted, and spring feels like it's just around the corner. But, as my mother used to tell me, it's never ever too late to write a thank you letter. We volunteers at Daily Bread want to thank all of you for making this past 2010 holiday season so very special for all the guests that we serve each day at the Soup Kitchen.



“How Do We Thank Thee, Let Us Count the Ways...



We're thankful for the support of local community celebrities.

Champaign Mayor Jerry Schweighart joined us in December and proved himself a great soup scooper. Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing joined us in January and was a big hit on the serving line. Champaign-Urbana News Gazette Editor John Foreman joined us in February and passed out everything from silverware to desserts. They all left with a better idea of what we do, who we serve.



John Foreman, days after his stint on the serving line, wrote a wonderful column in the Sunday paper, describing his experience at Daily Bread. “The clientele are greeted--and treated--as guests” he wrote. “Poverty is real. It is here.”

It's not only politicians and pundits who have shown up at Daily Bread. Mikel Leshoure, #5, Illinois football MVP, Associated Press 2nd team All American, and MVP of the Texas Bowl, showed that he is an MVP person when he arrived at Daily Bread before Thanksgiving with five turkeys and five hams. We wish him well in the NFL next year--and just hope that he ends up with a jersey with an even bigger number on the back!



We're thankful for the gifts of food that we receive.

Life has changed for the Soup Kitchen volunteers. Just two years ago we were serving lunch down the street at Catholic Worker House, and it was a very busy day when we served 70 people. Then in September 2009 we began serving sack lunches out of the foyer of New Covenant, and in those first days and weeks, we passed out 30-50 lunches. Today we are serving an average of 150 every day. Often, by the end of the month when money runs low for our guests, our



numbers climb much higher.

We couldn't feed so many people without the many generous donations of food we get from the community. Every day we get soup from Urbana Garden Restaurant. Every day a Daily Bread volunteer goes to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank and returns with a van load of everything from bread to lettuce to cookies to chicken breasts. Every day Daily Bread volunteers pick up pans of food from Newman Hall cafeteria on campus. Every Tuesday and Friday volunteers bring us produce and dairy products from Gordon Foods. Once a month El Toro provides us with an entire taco meal. We've also gotten food from Cafe Luna, from Holy Cross students, from St. Matthews, from many others.



Top: The "Taco Tuesday" crew celebrates at El Toro and thanks the restaurant for their generous donations.

Middle: Deepa Madhubalan, Stevie Bennett, Gina Stocking, and Dolores Sofranko present Alit Selimi of Urbana Garden with a Daily Bread apron and our most sincere thanks.

Bottom: Volunteer French Fraker arrives at Daily Bread with a van full of donated food from Gordan Food Service





We're thankful for the wonderful gifts we've received from supporters.

Sometimes at Daily Bread it feels like, almost before we realize that we need something, that something appears! Early in December we began having problems with the stove at New Covenant, a major difficulty when you're trying to cook for 150 people every day. 'Wouldn't it be nice,' a volunteer cook mused, 'if we had a convection oven?' Well, at that same time we were applying for a Champaign Rotary grant and needed to ask for a specific item, so we decided to ask for a new convection oven. Thanks to Champaign

Rotary, (a very BIG thanks to Champaign Rotary!), a beautiful double convection oven arrived in February and is now up and running in the kitchen!

Some of you may remember reading in the last newsletter about Ellen McDowell's dream of a van that could be equipped to serve sandwiches, soup, and coffee on weekend days when Daily Bread isn't open. Well, that dream is on its way to being fulfilled as well. Wonderful people have donated not one, but two vans to Daily Bread. Fred Stavins and Rosemary Garhart donated a 2000 Mercury Villager and 'Mike from Alvin' donated a panel van. We're using the mini van for food pickups at all the different places that keep our cupboards and freezers teeming with food. We're in the process of refurbishing the second van and working with a local church group and a group of students on a food delivery plan.



In addition Bob and Lucia Scully donated utility carts, Jim Walbridge donated a huge stock pot as well as other kitchen items. Deanna and John Wright donated a gross of heavy socks (that's 144 pairs!) And someone even donated the bagel slicer that Friday volunteer Mary Bailey has long coveted!

We're thankful for the checks that keep coming in and keep us fiscally sound in these hard economic times for social agencies.

We are so very grateful for all of you who remember Daily Bread again and again.

A special thanks this month to our newest donors: Ronald Baker, Patricia Jo Bash, Jeanne Behrensmeyer, Bernice Benn, Kay Beverly, Theresa Brown, Carolynne and Larry Carter, Vanessa Carter, Mehri Cowan, Kim Curtis, Mrs. Jean Daly, Kyle Dujakovich, Vince Early, Morris and Arrahwanna Gallagher, Karen Glogowski, Leslie Gordon, Judi Gratkins' Investment Club, Patrick Hanlon, Patricia Claire Hannon, Marty Haynes, Sylvia Herzog, Marlin Hillen, Lynn Hoffman, Father Joseph Hogan, Ed Kral, Linda Marrs-Morford, Miriam Marx, Lori and Tom McDonough, Robert McKim, Barb and Ed Miller, Pauline Mitchell, Robert and Linda Parr, Gerrie Rein, Adelle Renzaglia, Phyllis Richmond, James and Leslie Rose, Dave Ruedi, Gayle Ruedi, Lesley and Marshall Schacht, Carol Schanche, Dena Schneider, Thomas and Christine Scott, Teresa Selin, Betty Smith, Margaret Smock, Sally Spaulding, Janet Stafford, William and Margarite Stallman, Henriette Stegemeier, Debra Sutter, Edward and Mary Thompson, Dorothy Trick, Sarah and Tim Tufte, Arcelia Watson, Mary Fran Wisner, Karen Wold, Karen and Richard Wooley

We're thankful for the wonderful support you provided for our second annual backpack give-away.



Thanks to the wonderfully generous C-U community, on December 22 Daily Bread passed out almost 400 very well stuffed backpacks to the men, women, and children who are our daily lunch guests. The Wednesday crew served a soup kitchen record-breaking 300 meals from 11:00 to 12:30, then we closed the doors at New Covenant, caught our breaths, reorganized the Fellowship Hall, and, at 2:00, invited guests back in to receive their backpacks. It truly felt like Christmas came early to Daily Bread as guests waited cheerfully in long lines to receive their backpacks. In what must be considered at least a very tiny miracle, we ran out of women's backpacks just as the last woman came through the door. We had a few men's and children's backpacks left over that were distributed in the next couple of days to those guests who were unable to attend on the 22nd.

The backpack project has been such a success that we plan to continue it for Christmas 2011. So, we would encourage everyone to be on the lookout during the year for sales on backpacks and also for items to fill those backpacks up. One thing we learned this year is that most of our guests, especially the men, defined themselves, regardless of actual size, as an XL! Keep that in mind when you're buying a sweatshirt on sale!

We tried very hard to keep a list of everyone who donated backpacks but frequently, again like magic, stuffed backpacks just appeared., either at Daily Bread or on Pam or Ellen's porch So we want to thank the following people for their generous

donations--and we want to thank those many others who either chose to be anonymous or whose names we missed. Daily Bread is blessed to be supported by people with such generous hearts.

Backpack donors

Penny Porter, Mary Lee Thompson, Victoria Johnson, Ms. Carter, Janet Pope, Helen Grandone, Denise Novak, Susan Marshall, Kathy Hansen, Jan Reynolds, Gloria Arizola, Nancy Hatch, Bonnie Boswell, Karen Pickard, Sue Laesch, Ellen Harms, Judy Griffith, Judy Nowak, Rosemary Sabbia, Linda Sloat, Glenda Henderson, Barb Callahan, Donna O'Brien, Mary Kay Pleck, Betsy Boyle, Provena Covenant Medical Center Volunteers, Sharon Conry, Laura Berry, Gretka Wolfe, Marjory Seitz, Joyce Conley, Robin Leonard, Tony Peressini, Teresa Selin, SueEllen Brya Fink, Lyle Fettig, Marian Rodgers, Vevi Brannon, Faith United Methodist Church, Julie Booth/Altrusa, Barbara/Ed Miller, Central High School Music Boosters, Chris Bodine, Amy Witruk/Grace Church, Mahomet, Tammy Helfrich, Holy Cross 7th Grade, Zarina Hoch, Holy Cross 5th/6th grades, Stocks Office Staff, Lolita Perdue, Rhonda Gibsen, Laura Helm, Greta Overweiner, Linda Case, Tara Swearingen, Mary Beth, Elaine Phelps, Christine Walsh, Kathy Thurston, Amy Matthews, Dr. Harms' OR team, Joella Jones, Peggy Frerichs, Janine Hammer, Kim Duffin, Kim Seggebruch, Wenda Spears/Terry DesJardines, Janet Stafford, Caroline Mullaly, Joan Zernich, Beverly Herman, John/Sylvia Ronsville, Beth Woodside/U of I Accounting Office, Laura Keller, Liz Jackson, Jennifer Massey/Carle One-Day Surgery Center, Susan Leskis, Kristen Wetzal, Cora Johnson, L. Roberson, Bev Birmingham, Sari Schnitzlein/Weight Watchers/LaPeep Breakfast Club, Joan P Reeves, Melissa Edwards, Chris Anderson, Mary Smith, Bev McGill, Charles Shaw, Jennifer Greene/Carle Development Foundation Staff, Brenda Seten-Baker, Jan Phillips, Betty LaBerge, Rae Spencer, Rita Campion, Linda/Kyle Gerlach, Karen Winland, Mac MacGregor, Sharon Bryan, Clark Breeze, Karen Uden, St. Thomas Church in Philo, Jeanne Handley, Vanessa Horsman, Mary Jo/Rich Porter, Diane/Bob Hoffman, Jack and Gina Stocking, Jeff Starwalt/St. Matthews 7th Grade CCD, John Dobbs, Julian/Arlene Rappaport, Jonques Bissell, City of Champaign, Alan and Clare Haussermann, Elaine Goss/U of I Engineering Career Services, Carol/Yoram Misrahi, Judy Bach, Ellen Swengel, Judy/French Fraker, Mrs. Bonadies' Second Grade Class at Holy Cross, Jim/Pam Hagle, Stevie/Dick Benett, Malinge Family, Robert Zych Family, Bill Brownfield, Marietta Joria, Ann Parkinson, Julie Mills, Peisker Family, Audrey Linke/Area Wide Reporting

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Daily Bread Final Thoughts

1. Mark Your Calendars! The Second Annual Daily Bread Benefit featuring Champaign-Urbana's own Candy Foster and his band Shades of Blue will be held on Friday, June 3rd at Alto Vineyard. We promise you a grand time!
2. Please consider joining Daily Bread's "Bread of the Month Club." To continue to grow our mission, we need an income stream that is reliable and sustainable. There is an old Jewish proverb that says "While earning your daily bread, be sure you share a slice with those less fortunate." Please consider sharing a slice with Daily Bread. Questions?? Ellen McD (ajmcdowe@illinois.com)
3. Special Needs: Bus Tokens and bus passes, fresh fruit, diapers and baby food, bikes in good shape, (and Friday crew member Joanne Wheeler would really like a hand mixer!)
4. Another Need: Someone to donate time and talent towards body work on the donated van.
5. If you are interested in volunteering, call Clare at 359-8500.
6. We have chosen, out of respect for the of our guests, to print only pictures privacy of volunteers in this newsletter. Questions??
Gina (socksfive@aol.com) or
Ellen (ellenharms@aol.com)

Donations Always Needed
Mail to:
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