

Soup Scoop

Volume 10
August 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.)

Summer at the Soup Kitchen

Champaign-Urbana in the summer, for most of us, is a wonderful place to live. We have great parks, wonderful cultural activities, great libraries, a wide array of restaurants. If we include our impressive health care facilities and reasonable housing options, Champaign-Urbana looks good all year round. But the guests that we serve daily at the soup kitchen live in a different Champaign-Urbana. For many of them, the parks more often become a place to sleep rather than a place to play. The library is a place to escape the hot sun. Daily Bread is their only restaurant. The emergency room is their doctor. Krannert tickets are prohibitively expensive. And housing is a weekly rental or a family member's couch.

Our soup kitchen guests aren't different from other people in our community. They are like all of us--if we suffered from mental illness or debilitating addictions. They are like all of us--if we lost our job or couldn't find a job in this economic downturn. They are like all of us--if our minimum wage job paid enough to pay the rent or put food on the table, but not both.

As the economic downturn goes on and on, our numbers this summer continue to climb. We are now serving over 200 hot lunches almost every day. We certainly see many old and familiar faces, but we are seeing many new faces as well. And we are getting more and more requests for 'children's plates' with children home from school. Life for the guests we serve every day is never easy.

It's not only a hot meal that guests look for at Daily Bread. They come to us with many needs. It's heart wrenching when a woman edges up to a female volunteer and, in a whisper, asks if we have any 'female supplies.' It was heart wrenching two weeks ago when a man asked me if he could take a large handful of ketchup packets. "You can make good tomato soup with these," he told me. It's heart wrenching when a mother asks for extra food to take home to her children. It's heart wrenching when a mother with a tiny baby asks for diapers. But those are requests that are easy to fulfill. It's the more difficult requests that really tear at our hearts.

The Daily Bread Board decided from the beginning that we would allocate a sum of money every month for Assistance, money that would be used for helping guests with other needs. Ellen McDowell, with the help of Dolores Sofranko, Henry Szujewski, Mary Ann Malak, and Deepa Madhubalan, has the thankless job of directing our assistance program. Some decisions are easy. We help guests get birth certificates and state ID's, necessary paperwork that allows them to apply for jobs, for disability, for public aid. Some decisions are gratifying. We buy bus passes for guests who can demonstrate a need. Providing a year's worth of transportation for only \$60 feels like a great investment. But many decisions are hard. Our guests ask for help with water bills, with power bills, for prescriptions, for rent,



for train tickets. It takes a person with the compassion of Mother Teresa, the wisdom of Solomon, the insight of Freud, and the calm of Buddha to stretch our budget to meet the greatest needs. Our Assistance team do their best but the need is great. If you would like to donate specifically to our Assistance program, we can guarantee that your donations will be put to good use and will reach those in need in our community.

Weekend Van Project Update

It seems like only yesterday that Ellen McDowell was dreaming about having a van that would be available to provide sack lunches for the weekend when Daily Bread is not open. Well, Ellen may be pinching herself to make sure that she's not still dreaming, but today her dream is a reality. Daily Bread and weekend crew chief Jeff Carns have paired with the Labre Project at the Newman Center on campus, and we're now serving over 200 meals a weekend--and the numbers are rising. Daily Bread is providing the food, and the sandwiches are prepared in the Newman Hall certified kitchen. The van is parked in the parking lot by UpClose Printing on Saturday and in the Habitat for Humanity parking lot on Sunday, and our guests are beginning to find us. Daily Bread and Labre Project volunteers are serving sack lunches, hot coffee, and bottled water. Plans are in the works for serving soup once the weather gets cooler. Ellen is still dreaming of a permanent building for Daily Bread, but she's sleeping better these days knowing that our guests are now being fed seven days a week!



Star Award

Daily Bread was delighted to be awarded a STAR AWARD by the City of Champaign Neighborhood Services Department on May 26, 2011. Daily Bread was chosen for the Difference Maker award which is given "for excellence in community service. It recognizes extraordinary volunteer and civic efforts, which help build community spirit. Individuals or groups nominated for this award demonstrate the importance of doing what they feel is necessary to make a difference in the lives of people in the face of great adversity." Bob Goss, Dolores and Andy Sofranko, and Ellen McDowell attended the festivities, and Ellen accepted the award on behalf of all Daily Bread volunteers.

Board Elections

Daily Bread Board elections were held in April. The new officers are Bob Goss-President, Ellen McDowell-President Emeritus, Kate Metz-Senior Vice President/FundRaising, Stevie Bennett-Treasurer, and Pam Hagle-Secretary. Other positions include Dick Bennett-Food Procurement, Ellen Harms and Gina Stocking-Publicity and Newsletter, Audrey Johnson-Historian, Deepa Madhubalan-Communication, and Dolores Sofranko-Grants. Crew chiefs on the Board are Clare Haussermann, Jim Hiller, Henry Szujewski and Andy Sofranko, Ruth Branaman, Zarena Hoch and Joanne Wheeler, and Jeff Carns.

Monday Lucks Out

The Tuesday Crew has long been the envy of all the other Daily Bread crews because the third Tuesday of every month El Toro donates a complete taco meal. Taco Tuesday, as it's affectionately known, is a hit with guests and volunteers who all enjoy the tacos, refried beans, Spanish rice, and all the trimmings! Ole! Ole!

Well, now the Monday Crew gets to join with Tuesday as a day of envy. Sonic Drive-In is providing a meal the second Monday of every month--and the guests and volunteers get to enjoy a Sonic hot dog meal! Hot Dog Monday! Rah! Rah! Rah!

Wednesday Volunteer Kate Metz is actively searching for other local restaurants who might like to provide a meal one day a month. Anyone with a restaurant connection can contact Kate at 898-1827. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Crews would be VERY grateful!

Candy Foster and Shades of Blue Benefit Concert

There are times that we at Daily Bread feel like we live under a lucky star. When we lost our home at St. Jude's, New Covenant greeted us with loving arms. The very week that the local IGA's closed and we were worried about a source for fresh fruits and vegetables, we got our first call from Gordon Food Service--and we've been overflowing with produce ever since. But it's been at our annual Candy Foster Benefit that we've felt really blessed. Both last year and this year thunderstorms were in the forecast, and both years the rain held off until the music stopped, and then the skies opened up--and it poured!

So, once again, almost 400 Daily Bread supporters were treated to a wonderful night of music, fellowship, and balmy breezes! They were also treated to a typical Soup Kitchen sack lunch along with Tony Peresinni's excellent salad, soup from Urbana Garden Restaurant and Le Peep, and cake from Sam's. We do need to apologize for the skimpiness of the ham on the ham sandwich, due to a miscalculation as to what made up a serving size. (However, our soup kitchen guests were served the leftover ham on their sandwiches the following Monday instead of their usual bologna, so just maybe the ham ended up in the right place after all!)

We are delighted to be able to tell you that the Benefit raised almost \$20,000 for Daily Bread! We are very grateful for Candy Foster and his band Shades of Blue and the wonderful music they played. We are very grateful to Alto Vineyards for their support. We are very grateful for our many supporters who partied with us. We especially want to thank our Benefit Sponsors:

Bronze Sponsors

World Harvest, Paul Dohme, Richard and Ann Wampler, Dr. Roger Powell, Harold and Nancy Ard, Michael Brandt, Dolores Metz, Original Pancake House, Holy Cross Women, Wayne Cain And Sons, Advanced Roofing and Sheet Metal, Alan and Clare Haussermann, Shelby Motors, Janet Propst, Brian and Judy Holding, John Frauenhoffer, Dick and Ruth Kaelin, and Yoram and Carol Mizrahi

Silver Sponsors

Jeannie Scott and Tinsley Williams, Urbana Fraternal Order of Police, Horizon Hobby, Inc., Simply Plumbing, Joseph and Mary White, First Federal Savings Bank, Judith Checker, Jim and Ellen Harms, Janet Piccioli, The Eye Center, David Fernandes, Carle Foundation, Vanessa Horsman and Jeanne Handley

Gold Sponsors

Frederick and Hagle, Attorneys at Law, Jack and Gina Stocking

And, once again, we are grateful that Candy turned the microphone over to us and let the Daily Bread Singers take the stage and sing! Karen Pickard wrote our song this year.

“Take Me out to the Soup Kitchen”

“Come on over to Daily Bread. Step right in and relax.
Volunteers ready to cook and serve. Strap on an apron if you've got the nerve.
For it's joyful work and we love it. Dishing up a meal that's divine.
For it's 3...4...5 days a week For a real good time.
Daily Bread is our favorite place For our guests to dine!”



Daily Bread Celebrates Holidays

While Daily Bread volunteers may be feeding guests who are facing adversity, we do try to bring some joy as well as food into the lives of our guests. On Fat Tuesday Karen Pickard decorated all our tables with Mardi Gras beads and masks, and we gave all our guests not one, but two desserts! On St. Patrick's Day in March The Esquire Restaurant donated 75 pounds of corned beef. Crew Chief Ruth Branaman got up VERY early and cooked all that corned beef, as well as cabbage, and our guests had a traditional corned beef dinner. And on the 4th of July, Crew Chief Clare Haussermann and her Monday crew cooked hot dogs and had a Daily Bread picnic.



Cash Donations are Always Welcome, But Other Donations are Happily Accepted!

It's amazing how many people contribute to Daily Bread and in so many unique ways.

Dr. Victoria Johnson donated two quilts she made from Dr. Jim Harms' old ties. One quilt was auctioned in a silent auction at the Candy Foster Benefit. The second quilt will be auctioned off at Christmas.

The Centennial Prom donated all their left over refreshments.

East Central Special Olympics donated ham, cheese, and bread for sandwiches and bananas when their regional bocce competition was canceled in the spring, and they donated more sandwiches after Spring Games.

CVS Pharmacy donated boxes of nuts that were a great addition to sack lunches.

Stevie and Dick Bennett danced the night away at their 50th wedding anniversary party and asked their guests to donate to Daily Bread rather than bringing a gift. Which those guests did, very generously!



The Champaign Theater Company donated a stainless steel table that they told us was sturdy enough to dance on. So far the Daily Bread Singers haven't danced on the table, but we are a lively group so that day may come soon!

Dick Joy donated a van in honor of his late wife Diane who was involved in many local charitable programs. We are using the van to pick up food from the many places that keep our guests well fed.

A grant from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank helped us pay for the walk-in refrigerator and freezer that have been vital in allowing us to accept more donated food.

Sharon and Tom Conry donated a bike that quickly found a home.

During July's hot spell Karen Kane collected water bottles, filled them with ice water, and passed them out to guests. Water bottles were

donated by U of I Athletics, Mettler Center, Human Kinetics, Illinois American Water, Champaign Park District, Catholic Charities, and too many individuals to list.

The Champaign Park District donated thirteen swimming pool passes to Daily Bread families.

Curtis Apple Orchard donated apple cider.

Mya Keeble, daughter of Wednesday volunteer Melissa Keeble, and a savvy Girl Scout, asked her customers to buy Girl Scout cookies and donate them to Daily Bread. She then donated her time bagging up cookies for sack lunches. Daily Bread and the Girl Scout troop were both winners!

Amber Aimone, granddaughter of Wednesday volunteers Dolores and Andy Sofranko, set up a lemonade stand on the Quad during the CU Marathon and raised \$50 for Daily Bread.

Vanessa Horsman and Jeanne Handley donated bags and bags of ice for the Candy Foster Benefit.

The Esquire donated eleven crates of chips just when we ran out of chips for sack lunches.

Pat Hardy donated much needed baby food, something often requested and rarely available at the Food Bank.

Sue Summerville donated containers for sandwiches.

Holy Cross teachers kept us well supplied with milk and fresh fruit this summer.

Gardeners keep stopping by with delicious fresh tomatoes.





Special Guests

Daily Bread has had several community leaders as guests these past few months. The Reverend Jimmie Holmes, Sr. from Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church, Jennifer Roscoe from Channel 3 News, and Champaign's new mayor, Don Gerard, all dropped by to serve up some soup and show their support. We think that they all looked great in their Daily Bread aprons! And we especially want to thank Jennifer for the great news story she did after her stint at Daily Bread.



Backpack Time Again

It's hard to believe as we suffer through this summer's heat wave that Christmas will be here in four short months. Daily Bread is planning to once again pass out backpacks at Christmas and we want to give our many generous backpack donors a heads up, especially since there are great sales on backpacks right now. As you all know, Christmas is not a very merry time for most of our Soup Kitchen guests. Many agencies and many generous individuals reach out to needy families, especially needy children, during the Christmas season. But the individuals who we serve at Daily Bread are rarely remembered. We will be asking for donations of filled backpacks that we can give as gifts to our guests on Christmas, backpacks filled with warm gloves, socks, scarves, hats, underwear, toiletries (especially deodorant and hand lotion for hands that get chapped in the cold), candy, playing cards, bus tokens, etc. Last year we gave away over 400 backpacks. We, and our guests, were overwhelmed with the response. We see many of those backpacks every day, and most of them are beginning to look pretty worn. We'll have more specific information about the Backpack Project in our next newsletter.

SPECIAL THANKS

This newsletter would be a book if we tried to acknowledge everyone who supports Daily Bread in so many different ways. But we know who you are, and you know what you do. Once again, thanks to all our many loyal volunteers who keep the soup stirred, to all our Bread of the Month donors who keep us solvent, to everyone who sends a check, to all of you who danced and sang at the Candy Foster Benefit, to everyone who furthers the mission in their own way. And a special thanks to our newest supporters:

Harold and Nancy Ard, MJ Armstrong, Sara Arnold, Mary Bamert, Richard and Janice Behrends, Dr. and Mrs Skip Binch, Phil and Judy Blazier, Michael Brandt, Kurt and Kelly Brasch, David and Becky Burkland, G.E. and K.J. Campbell, Clifford and Shauna Carey, David and Perri Ceperley, Judy Checker, Don Cohen, Richard and Emily Colbert, Liz Davis, Kathy Delsignore, Jack and Alice Dollahon, Cynthia Dorner, Alison Duden, Mike and Sandy Emerick, Bill and Judy Fierke, Barbara Flynn, William and Margaret Geibel, Donald Gerard, William and Rita Godsell, Bill and Rose Goodman, Sarah Graham, Lyndsey Groth, Guy and Anne Hall, Keith and Michelle Haug, Christopher Hinsley, Mary Hoffman, Joann Hower, Charles Huber, Pamela Ibsen-Bedford, Skip and Sue Inskip, Jay and Rosalyn Kesan, Linda Kurtz, Louis and Shirley Liebovich, Mary Maglione, Rev. Stanley Malinowski, Brenda Marshall, David Mauck, Kate Metz, Jim Nixa, Rosemary Nolan, David and Julia Ohlsson, Lisa Hoppe and Tony Olaivar, Skip and Lacey Pickering, Ellis and Vicki Prell, Janet Probst, Tom and Lois Ramsey, Theodore and Linda Rund, Rick and Linda Sandquist, Dr. and Mrs. Steven Seibert, Kim Smith and Fernando Serrano, John and Julie Sikorski, Ann Smith, Clark and Mary Lee Spence, Gregory and Margaret Stanton, John and Nancy Ellen Taylor, Susan Taylor, Kirstin Terhune, Dr. Samir Sayegh, Daniel and Linda Tortorelli, Jean and Jenny Caprasse Vasaune, Steven and Margaret Veazie, Naneen Vidhayasirinun, Jack and Virginia Waaler, Richard and Ann Wampler, Glen Whitmer, Dr. Merle White, Wayne and Julie Woller, Gerald and Yvonne Ziegler

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Daily Bread Final Thoughts

1. Daily Bread is in desperate need of silverware. Silverware seems to disappear with some regularity either inadvertently into the garbage or out the door. Garage sale searches have thus far been unsuccessful. If you have any extra silverware that you are not using, please drop it off at Daily Bread M-F between 9 and 1 or at Ellen Harms' at 705 S. Elm Blvd, Champaign.
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. Mother Teresa said "Love begins by taking care of the closest ones--the ones at home." Please consider helping us feed the hungry of our hometown by pledging a regular amount every month. Questions?? Ellen McDowell ajmcdowe@illinois.com
3. Special Needs: Bus Tokens and bus passes, fresh fruit, diapers and baby food, bikes in good shape, SILVERWARE!
4. We are always in need of people willing to drive and pick up donated food.
5. If you are interested in volunteering as a cook or a driver, call Clare at 359-8500 or email her at chausser@comcast.net
6. We have chosen, out of respect for the privacy of our guests, to print only pictures of volunteers in this newsletter. Questions??
Gina (socksfive@aol.com) or
Ellen (ellenharms@aol.com)

Donations Always Needed
Mail to:
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