

Soup Scoop

Volume 11
November 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 Streets in Champaign. Lunches are served **Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 12:30**. Meanwhile, we dream of having our own facility.)

“Christmas is Coming, the Goose is Getting Fat Please to Put a Penny in the Old Man’s Hat...”

Christmas is just around the corner, and while probably none of us are actually fattening a goose (with the possible exception of RJ and Laura Hettinger, who not only fattened a pig but donated said pig to Daily Bread, thereby providing our guests with weeks worth of barbecue, ham, etc), many of us, most of us, are baking cookies, decorating a Christmas tree, wrapping presents, hanging our stockings, spending time with our families and friends, and enjoying all the many wonderful activities that make this season so special.

But this is not the Christmas that the guests who come to Daily Bread every day for lunch experience. Most of our guests worry about having a place to sleep every night, not about where to put up the Christmas tree. Most of our guests need new warm socks to wear in the cold weather, not socks to hang on a mantel. Many of our guests are estranged from their families, and Christmas will be only another lonely day. The only present that most of our guests will receive will be the backpack that we at Daily Bread hand out. The only Christmas cookies that most of our guests eat are the ones that show up on the dessert table at Daily Bread with some regularity during the month of December.

Christmas is a time of joy and excess for most of us, but not for the guests at Daily Bread. That's why, in this season of hope and charity, we at Daily Bread are holding out our hats and asking all of you to throw in some pennies so that we can continue our mission of feeding the hungry of the Champaign-Urbana community this Christmas season and throughout 2012.

We hope to collect those pennies in three main ways! First, we are ALWAYS happy to get a check whenever you are able to donate and in whatever amount. Our treasurer Stevie Bennett says that the best part of her job is checking the Daily Bread mailbox every day and being surprised by the generous, unexpected checks that come in on a regular basis. Those unexpected checks tend to make up for the unexpected bills! Most of you know by now that Daily Bread is unique in that it is an entirely volunteer run organization. We have NO paid staff so all donations go directly to providing meals and support to the hungry of Champaign-Urbana. We know that many of you make donations to your favorite charities during the holiday season, and we are so grateful when some of those checks are made out to Daily Bread.

In addition to sending in a check or donating your pennies, we would like to encourage you to join our Bread of the Month Club and to shop at the Daily Bread Gift Boutique!

Bread of the Month Club

In order to continue and grow our mission of feeding the hungry, Daily Bread needs an income stream that is reliable and sustainable. For many years, St. Jude's Catholic Worker House Soup Kitchen was sustained by its "Ten Dollar a Month Club." Month after month many loyal supporters (including many of you who are reading this newsletter and followed us to Daily Bread) sent in checks that kept the bills paid, the pantry stocked, and the oven hot. Two years ago we at Daily Bread began a similar club, but because of our increased expenses, we simply called it the "**Bread of the Month Club**," and we asked that you make a commitment of whatever was comfortable for you, be it ten dollars or twenty dollars, or fifty dollars a month. Many of you joined.



Two years ago when the soup kitchen was part of St. Jude's we were feeding 50-75 guests a day. Today we are feeding over 200 guests every day. As you can imagine, our costs have gone up significantly.

Every weekday we serve over 200 hot meals. Every weekday we pass out over 100 sack lunches for guests to take home as an evening meal. Buying food from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and the donations of food that we receive plus the talent and creativity of our cooks help keep our costs down, but we still end up with a big monthly bill at Sam's.

Every weekend we serve over 350 guests sack lunches and coffee from our traveling van. Cheese and bologna and coffee aren't cheap. Neither are gas and insurance on the van.

Last year we gave out over 200 yearly bus passes so that guests could have transportation to look for jobs, to get to medical appointments, etc. We also have helped countless guests get birth certificates and state ID's, necessary paperwork for a successful job hunt. \$65 is cheap for a year's worth of transportation, but those passes and ID's wreak havoc on our Assistance budget.

As our numbers have skyrocketed, so have our expenses. Today the monthly income that comes in from the **Bread of the Month Club** is not enough to cover our monthly expenses.

We are asking more of you to join the **Bread of the Month Club**. It's an easy club to join. No meetings, no books to read, no bridge or poker to play, no initiation. Just fill out the form below and Voila, you're in!! You can send your contributions monthly, semi-annually, yearly. Once you join we'll send you a profuse thank you, but we won't be sending you monthly reminders or envelopes.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Please don't wait. Join Daily Bread's **Bread of the Month Club** today.

"Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas..."

Yes! I want to join the **Bread of the Month Club**!

Name:

Address:

Amount:

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, PO Box 648, Champaign IL 61824-064

Daily Bread Gift Boutique

While so many of our Daily Bread guests do without even many of life's necessities, (it's heart wrenching at the soup kitchen when guests ask us for items like diapers, baby food, socks, deodorant, hats, gloves, etc.) too many individuals are inundated with things that they don't want or need at Christmas. Most of you know the frustration of trying to find another Christmas present for the person in your life who is so difficult to buy for. What husband needs another tie? What wife needs another piece of jewelry? What friend needs another candle? What grandmother needs more hand lotion? What teacher needs another coffee mug? This Christmas Daily Bread is offering you the opportunity to give that hard-to-buy-for person a very special and unique gift.

We're also giving those of you who get crabby at the whole idea of Christmas shopping a solution to your shopping woes since you can shop from your easy chair. According to 2 Corinthians, "God loves a cheerful giver." But according to Catherine Hall, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. He also accepteth from a grrouch."

At Daily Bread we feed the hungry of Champaign-Urbana every day of the year. On weekdays we serve the hungry a hot meal complete with drinks, salad, soup, entree, and dessert, and we send them home with a sack lunch for dinner. On weekends, with the help of a group of U of I students, we are now serving sack lunches and coffee, from a mobile van, and we are in the process of upgrading the van so that we can serve hot soup as well.

We've calculated the average cost of food every day (\$99) and are offering you the wonderful opportunity to give your loved one (or yourself!) the gift of a day's worth of food at Daily Bread. You can pick out your own special day (birthday, anniversary, etc), we'll send you a lovely certificate that you can wrap and put under the Christmas tree. In addition recipients will receive an invitation to visit Daily Bread on their day, and their first names will be posted in the soup kitchen. Where else can you feed 200 people for less than \$100!

Other gifts in our Boutique include a week's worth of food (\$692) and a week's worth of garbage pickup (\$85). For more concrete gifts we have Daily Bread aprons available at \$15 and Daily Bread coffee mugs for \$10.

Gina Stocking, pictured at right with both the apron and the mug, can be contacted at 352-3611 or at socksfive@aol.com with any questions. All you need to do is call Gina or fill out the form below, send it to Daily Bread, and we'll send you your gift right away! Happy Shopping!



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Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Gift In honor of _____

I would like to buy:

One day of food (\$99) specify day _____

One week of food (\$692) specify week _____

One week of garbage pickup (\$85) specify week _____

Apron (\$15) _____ Daily Bread Mug (\$10) _____

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

Back Pack Project

It's backpack time again at Daily Bread. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will once again celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. The Champaign-Urbana community is very generous to children at Christmastime 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 Wednesday, Dec. 21 from 2-3:30 at Daily Bread. Tuesday, December 20 will be sorting and organizing day. We will begin with the sorting immediately after soup kitchen lunch is over. Last year we gave away over 400 backpacks. We're assuming that we will need that many or more 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 appreciated items include hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, small fleece blankets, candy, gum, food items. All items should be new. We are asking that all backpacks be new or nearly new as well. All backpacks should be labelled with the gender and size of recipient (i.e., Man-XL). We found last year that most of our guests requested at least a size Large, most preferred XL. There is also a need for some 2X and 3X bags. Children's backpacks need to be labelled by gender and age of the child. We would also like to have a few filled diaper bags available.

We will need volunteers for sorting and stuffing backpacks on Tuesday and for passing out backpacks on Wednesday. Backpacks will be sorted by gender and size and placed in individual classrooms to facilitate the distribution.

Filled backpacks should be dropped off the week of Monday Dec. 12th-Dec. 19th. 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 (711 S. Elm Blvd. 359-3245). Please make sure that you leave your name when you drop off backpacks.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call or e-mail Ellen at 356-2551 ellenharms@aol.com



Breaking News at Daily Bread!

We have just learned that Arby's has agreed to donate food for a meal one day a month to Daily Bread. We are extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. William Myers for this generous contribution. As many of you know, El Toro donates a complete Mexican meal on "Taco Tuesday," the 3rd Tuesday of every month. And Sonic donates a hot dog meal on the 2nd Monday of every month. Currently, the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday lunch crews are all hoping that the Arby meals will be arriving on their day!

Special Thanks

We are continually surprised and delighted here at Daily Bread at the generosity of the Champaign-Urbana community and the diversity of the ways that people support our endeavors.



1. RJ and Laura Hettinger raised 3 little pigs last year. Pig #3 was donated to Daily Bread.
2. Chris Sofranko donated 1180 bags of Frito chips for our sack lunches.
3. We told you in the last newsletter that we were running low on silverware, and Penny Porter, Val McWilliams, Jeanne Sathre, Mary Lee Thompson, St. Pat's Church, Nancy Hatch, Chris Slater-Vohs, Lucia Scully, Sharon Conry, and Madeleine Schweighart all donated silverware. We are now flush with flatware!

4. U of I athletes donated the money they made dunking their coaches in a dunk tank.
5. First Christian Church made sandwiches for Habitat for Humanity and donated their leftovers to us.



6. State Senator Mike Frerichs and State Representative Naomi Jakobsson recently visited Daily Bread and were expert Soup-Scoopers.
7. Leslie Harms Rydberg and Nancy Hatch donated diapers.
8. JoAnn Hesselmann Smith brought in an enormous bag of towels and washcloths which we distributed to very appreciative guests.
9. Janice Dalal donated fresh vegetables which Bob Goss helped her pick.
10. Many, many others just showed up with the fruits of their gardens and left us with a wealth of tomatoes, cucumbers, and other fresh veggies.
11. A group called DIVAS donated bus tokens.
12. Wesley Graduate Student Group donated meat and cheese sandwiches.



13. Peg and Jan Knapp and Betty Villella donated 40 sweatshirts for the backpack project.
14. The Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting donates sandwiches every month.
15. Elm Boulevard residents donated money collected at their annual 'Cider on the Boulevard' to Daily Bread.
16. Doris Howard and her bridge group held a Duplicate Bridge Marathon with the proceeds going to Daily Bread.
17. Volunteer Mary Ann Malak noticed that many of our guests were arriving on bikes. She asked the city to provide permanent bike racks, which they did.
18. St. Matthew Parents Club donated the proceeds from their Halloween 'Trunk or Treat' fundraiser to Daily Bread.
19. Champaign Eagles Motorcycle Club donated a gas card for our mobile van.
20. Friends of the late Nathaniel Carter, a long-time Daily Bread guest, donated generously in his honor.
21. Friends and family of the late Gene Lamb, a long-time supporter of both Catholic Worker House Soup Kitchen and Daily Bread, donated generously in his memory.



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

**“Unless someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get
better. It's not.”
~Dr. Seuss**

Donations Always Needed

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



Merry Christmas from the Volunteers at Daily Bread!!