

# Soup Scoop

Volume 14

August, 2012

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## 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.*

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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**, at the corner of Randolph and White Street in Champaign. Lunches are served **Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 12:30**. Sack lunches and coffee are served from our mobile van on weekends.

### *“We’re Having a Heat Wave, a Tropical Heat Wave..”*

President Harry Truman once remarked, “If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.” He could have been talking about the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen volunteers these last few hot months! As the days got hotter and hotter, our loyal cooks just kept right on cooking even as the air conditioning fought a losing battle against the heat from our stoves and ovens. Our dishwashers kept right on toiling away even as the steam poured out of our antiquated dishwasher and sweat rolled down their faces. And volunteers kept passing out plates of entrees, dishing out bowls of salad and soup, handing out desserts and fruit. (Some of us, however, found excuses to frequently visit the walk-in freezer.) It’s a good thing everyone kept working because the numbers of guests we’ve served this summer has kept rising along with the temperature.



Most days we serve well over 200 guests. Part of the reason for our increased numbers are the children who are out of school and come along with their parents for a meal. We love to pass out popsicles along with children’s plates! Part of the reason may be the fact that we provide an air-conditioned facility along with big containers full of ice water and lemonade. This summer guests are arriving earlier and waiting patiently under the outside awning or the shade of the side of the building until we open our doors. They are staying longer, lingering over a good meal and a brief respite from the outside heat. But the biggest part of the reason is that the need continues to be great in Champaign-Urbana, and more and more people are finding their way to us.

Most Daily Bread volunteers know that at 1:30 they get to leave that hot kitchen and head to air-conditioned homes. But we are well aware that most of our guests leave Daily Bread and head to wherever they can best fight the heat, be it the nearby public library, a shady tree in Westside Park, that outside awning at New Covenant, or a room with a fan.

Although we are sorry that we can’t provide our guests with 24 hour a day air-conditioning, we at Daily Bread are gratified that, thanks to our volunteers and to all our loyal supporters, our guests are able to fight the oppressive heat this summer well fed and well hydrated. That’s why we’re in the kitchen!





## *“Hot Fun in the Summer Time”*

June 15th found us for the third year in a row dancing the night away under the stars at Alto Vineyard. Champaign-Urbana’s own Candy Foster and his band Shades of Blue provided the music, the Daily Bread volunteers provided the meal, and 400 or more people joined in the fun and helped us raise over \$25,000. For the last two years we’ve worried about rain, and both years the heavens opened up and poured just as Candy was singing his last song. But this year it was sunshine and moonbeams and balmy breezes all the way.

It takes a lot of people to put together a successful fundraiser. First and foremost, Daily Bread is grateful to Candy Foster and his band. He’s been a wonderful friend to Daily Bread, and we are extremely grateful for his support for what we do. Alto Vineyard is a wonderful

facility and an even better host. We are grateful to Urbana Garden and LaPeep for donating the soup, which guests raved about even on a warm evening. We are grateful to Tony Peressini for his adept salad making. We are grateful to all the volunteers who tied on their aprons and smiled all evening as they made sure our guests were well taken care of. We are very grateful to the guest who won the 50-50 raffle and very generously donated his winnings back to Daily Bread. We are grateful to Jeanne Handley and Vanessa Horsman who brought extra tables and bags and bags of ice. And we are very very grateful for everyone who came out in support of Daily Bread, enjoyed a soup kitchen meal, listened to the music, and danced the night away with us.

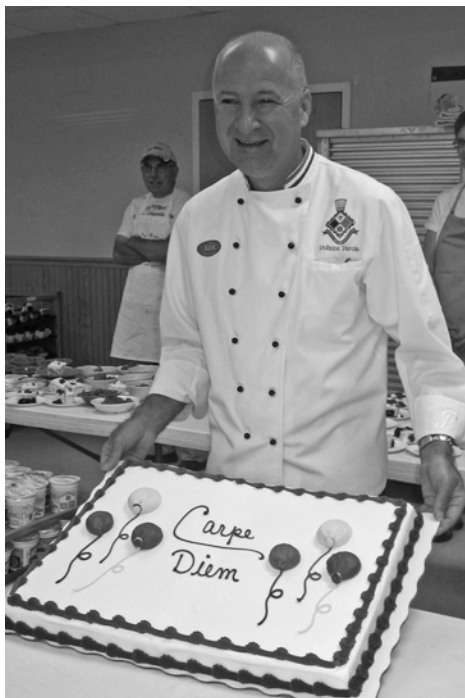
June 15th was a special day in another way. Ellen McDowell, Daily Bread’s moral compass, celebrated her birthday at the Candy Foster Benefit, and everyone got to sing Happy Birthday to a very special lady. And, once again, as the evening was winding down, Candy graciously handed over the microphone and let the Daily Bread Volunteer Singers take the stage! A great time was had by all.



A special thanks to the following sponsors:

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## *“Some Like it Hot”*

As a group Daily Bread guests tend to like hot, spicy food. We keep bottles of hot sauce on the serving table and regularly watch guests douse everything from soup to salad to pork chops. So when we were asked by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources if we would be willing to have a chef from New Orleans come to the soup kitchen and prepare Asian carp for our guests, we were quick to say yes, pretty sure that anything a Cajun chef prepared would be well received.



Asian carp have become a major problem in the Illinois River. Large fish that feed voraciously and that

can leap 8-10 feet out of the water, they have become a hazard to boaters and a major threat to other fish native to our ecosystem. Illinois has been trying hard to keep them from invading the Great Lakes. One new possible solution--if you can't kill them, eat them! Chef Phillippe Parola is a major proponent who is teaming up with Illinois state officials in a campaign to whet the public's appetite for the fish.

Chef Parola and Daily Bread's own Chef Tassilo Homolatsch, head chef of the Wednesday crew, filleted an Asian carp and then sautéed it for our volunteers to taste. Then they prepared a casserole for our guests with the fish, cheese, and cajun and creole spices. Our volunteers and our guests all gave a thumbs up to the tasty dishes. Appetites were thoroughly whetted.

Usually our guests finish their meals with a desert courtesy of the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, but they were closed for inventory that week so, in honor of Chef Parola, we ordered sheet cakes. However, we were stumped on how to decorate the cakes until Karen Pickard said with a smile, "How about CARPE DIEM?" Chef Parola, Chef Tass, and the Asian carp did indeed "seize the day" on Daily Bread's own Carp Day!

## *“Some Like It Even Hotter..”*

It's a pretty safe bet that if the Daily Bread guests like spicy Cajun cooking that they would also enjoy Indian cuisine. Zarina Hock, with the support of the Indian Cultural Society, has edited an Indian cookbook filled with the favorite recipes of local members of the Society. In an incredibly generous gesture, Zarina and the Indian Cultural Society have donated all proceeds from the sale of the book to Daily Bread. The initial printing of 500 books was quickly sold out, and Daily Bread has already received over five thousand dollars from the sale. A second printing is in the works and copies should be available by the time you receive this newsletter. Home Cooking of India will be available for \$15 by contacting **Zarina at zhock@sbcglobal.net**. It's a wonderful cookbook to own, it would make a wonderful gift (the holidays are approaching), and it would be an easy way to support Daily Bread.

Zarina, by the way, is the Friday crew chief, and we are just waiting for her Friday crew to surprise our guests with an Indian feast!!



## *“Summer Dreams, Make Me Feel Fine...”*

Ellen McDowell, Daily Bread’s President Emeritus, always has fine dreams for our soup kitchen. Last year she was dreaming about a mobile van so that we could provide food to our guests on weekends when New Covenant’s kitchen wasn’t available. That dream quickly became a reality with the donation of a used van and the help of some dedicated U of I students. Today we are serving sack lunches to our guests on Saturdays and Sundays, and this fall we will, thanks to Champaign Rotary’s donation of a handwashing sink, start serving hot soup and coffee as well. This summer another of Ellen’s dreams is on the verge of becoming true. Ellen has long dreamed of having the space and resources to allow social service agencies to meet with our guests in our facility so that they wouldn’t have to travel all over Champaign county to receive the help they need. We are delighted to be the recipient of a \$6000 grant from Provena Covenant to rent and furnish a room at New Covenant for this purpose. We hope to have this program up and running by fall, and we are extremely grateful to Provena Covenant for making it possible. In addition, Ellen is always dreaming of finding more funds to enable us to provide more bus passes to guests who need a reliable means of transportation. A grant from Urbana will provide funds for over 30 bus passes. We are all grateful to Dolores Sofranko and her grant committee for the incredible

work they’ve done in their pursuit of grant funding.

By the way, Ellen is still dreaming of a permanent home for Daily Bread...



## *“Good Day, Sunshine”*

We soup kitchen volunteers are always looking for ways to tell the Daily Bread story because we believe so strongly in what we do. This summer we have new ways to share what Daily Bread is all about. We have created a **Daily Bread Speaker’s Bureau**, and we now have a corps of eager, enthusiastic volunteers who are available to speak to organizations about Daily Bread. We are willing to go to any group that would like to learn more about the issue of hunger in the CU community and what Daily Bread is doing to try to combat this problem. If you are a church group, a school group, a social group, who would like to hear our story, please contact Karen Pickard at [kkpickard@gmail.com](mailto:kkpickard@gmail.com) for more information.

Many people are curious about exactly what happens at Daily Bread. Henry Szujewski, a dedicated Wednesday cook and retired media person, has created a **video** that gives a very moving look at what a day at Daily Bread looks like, what Daily Bread means to the guests we serve every day, and what Daily Bread means to the volunteers who work there. This video is available to be shown to groups.

We also have updated our website this summer. Information about the Speaker’s Bureau as well as a wealth of other information about Daily Bread can be found at our website. In addition the video can be viewed at the website. We have even added a paypal function to the website so that it’s now possible to make a donation to Daily Bread online. Since we are spending \$100 every single day on food (pretty good when you see that we’re feeding over 200 people on that amount) and since we’ve got other expenses every month, we want to make it as easy as possible for people to donate! Check us out at [dailybreadsoupkitchen.com](http://dailybreadsoupkitchen.com)

Videos, websites, paypal, email!!! Not bad for volunteers with an average age of 50+! Before you know it, we’ll be twittering!

## *“Hot Time, Summer in the City...”*

1. At the end of the school year Daily Bread got great support from St. Matthew students. Mrs. Hiller's CCD class donated a Lenten collection. Mrs. Wurth's class heard Karen Pickard speak and decided to take up a collection for Daily Bread. And then Mrs. Wurth agreed to match what her students brought in.
2. Delta Gamma sorority on campus donated food.
3. As did Kevin Warner, Mary Boland, the Mullally family, and the YMCA swim team, who donated chips.
4. Susan Leskis donated silverware, something we are always in need of, as somehow, despite our best efforts, it continues to disappear.
5. A local bride received two food processors as wedding gifts and rather than returning the second one, donated it to the soup kitchen.
6. Sliders on campus donated all the ingredients for a meal.
7. Breakthrough 4 Wholeness, a group out of New Covenant and the Vineyard Church made a generous donation.
8. GFS (Gordon Food Service) donates produce and other food so regularly that we almost (not quite) take it for granted, but sometimes they surprise us with an unusual donation. Like the time that they asked if we could use tilapia that had been mispackaged. The creative Wednesday cooks served up tilapia and grits to our guests. They probably added hot sauce.
9. Kathy Kaler and the U of I athletes have been extremely helpful bagging chips and snacks for our sack lunches. We are also very appreciative of all the very gently worn athletic apparel, especially shoes, that's been donated. We are however, still finding it difficult to give away the size 16 basketball shoes!
10. Nico Arizaga, with some help from his sister and a neighbor friend held a lemonade stand with the proceeds going to Daily Bread. He was very happy to deliver \$150 and two watermelons to the soup kitchen.
11. Ellen Harms, Tuesday crew member, was the recipient of the Illinois Council on Volunteerism's annual award for our area for her work with the 2011 Backpack Project. She was delighted to accept the award on behalf of Daily Bread and everyone who made the Backpack Project a success.
12. Herriott's Coffee Company keeps us well supplied with coffee, which remains popular even in this heat.
13. Daily Bread operates with specific daily crews, and although all crews are committed to the same goal, there is sometimes a bit of competition among the crews. (Tuesday crew is still gloating over winning the Christmas singing contest two years in a row!) Well aware of this competitive urge among crews, last spring Kate Metz proposed a contest. "Let's see," she said, "which crew can collect the most dollar bills with the letters D, B, S, K on them." (FYI, numbers can be found directly to the left of George Washington's picture--and there are NO bills with the letter S.) A month later Kate counted the bills, and Tuesday crew was delighted to claim the championship with 646 dollar bills--almost a week's worth of food! BTW, we would be delighted to receive any D, B, or K dollar bills you might collect!



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

1. Even as we all swelter in this record breaking hot summer, don't forget that December is just four months away. Although the summer heat is problematic for many of our guests, the cold of winter is even more difficult. For the last three years Daily Bread has given out backpacks filled with cold weather gear as well as toiletries to our guests at Christmas. For many of our guests these backpacks are their only Christmas gifts. Last year we gave away 800 backpacks to very appreciative guests, donated by many of you who are reading this newsletter. Backpacks are on sale now, and we would encourage everyone to get a head start on your backpack shopping. We'll be sending out more information later.

2. We are often asked what we need most, and the answer is simple. Our biggest need is always donations. It costs us \$100 a day for food. We pay rent, we pay utilities, we pay for insurance, garbage, repairs. We have an Assistance Fund that helps our guests with bus passes, state ID's, and birth certificates. We appreciate all the help we can get. We love the big checks! We really love the regular Bread of the Month checks. But we are touched by the smaller donations. Recently, a guest handed Ellen McDowell \$6 in crumpled dollar bills. She had recently got a job and wanted to do her bit. It was, she said, "the widow's mite."

God bless her. God bless you all!

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