

Soup Scoop

Volume 15

November, 2012

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.

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.

“It is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.” Mother Teresa

It's the holiday season once again at Daily Bread. Besides feeding an average of 200 guests every day, we are collecting backpacks for our annual Backpack Project. We are adding Christmas cookies to our dessert table. We are decorating the New Covenant Fellowship Hall and filling it with holiday music. And we are very gratefully accepting the generous donations that always arrive during the holiday season.

We try in this newsletter to give all of you who support us a sense of what Daily Bread is like. We try to share with you the spirit of community that we feel at Daily Bread. Because what Daily Bread is actually about is people. Daily Bread is the sum total of its guests, its volunteers, and its generous supporters. And all of us who make up this incredible phenomena that is Daily Bread have a story that explains why we're here. This Christmas I would like to share mine with you.

Twenty five years ago at Christmas my brother-in-law gave me a set of blocks that he had carefully crafted in his basement woodshop. The fourteen blocks were specifically designed to spell out Merry Christmas. It was a lovely gift, one that every year since my kids have taken great delight in carefully arranging on an end table in our living room.



What we didn't know at the time that the gift was given was that my brother-in law was fighting a losing battle against

the onset of paranoid schizophrenia as he toiled away making Christmas blocks in his basement. Shortly after that Christmas he lost his battle with mental illness and began a tragic downward spiral that eventually ended with his disappearance. Today none of the family knows where his struggle eventually took him. Our last contact with him was over ten years ago, and only last year his family had him legally declared dead.

But every Christmas, when we get out our boxes of Christmas decorations and find his blocks, I think of what a kind and loving man he was before the nightmare of mental illness. Every Christmas I look at those blocks, and I hope that someone, somewhere is ladling out a bowl of steaming hot soup for him, that someone is smiling and handing him a hearty plate of food, that someone is giving him a backpack filled with supplies to get him through another cold winter, that someone, somewhere, is treating him with love and compassion and respect.

At Daily Bread we serve everyone who walks through our doors. Most of our guests come because in these economic times their paychecks or disability checks or social security checks or welfare checks aren't big enough to cover all their other expenses as well as food. Some of our guests suffer from problems with alcohol; some, like my brother in law, suffer from mental illness.

At Daily Bread we smile at all our guests, and we offer them a hot meal. We like to think that it's always Christmas at the soup kitchen.

***“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents
as opening our hearts.” Janice Maediter***

There is nothing more annoying than making a generous donation to a charity that is dear to your heart only to get another solicitation letter almost by return mail! On the other hand, there is nothing more worrisome as a non-profit than to watch your expenses go up and your mailbox remain empty. At Daily Bread we try to balance these extremes with ONE return mailing envelope a year. We hope that many of you who have supported us in the past will think of us this Christmas and overflow our PO Box!

Daily Bread is unique in several ways. We are an entirely volunteer run organization. We have NO paid staff. Bookkeeping, shopping, publicity, meal planning, financial planning, cooking, cleaning. **Everything is done by volunteers!** (full disclosure-we do pay a cleaning crew to do heavy cleaning; many of us may be ‘young’ in spirit. but ‘not so young’ in years.)

Daily Bread receives NO government funding. We are entirely dependent on individual donations and local grants. But **every donation goes to direct guest services!**

We are, however, very cost efficient! Because of a significant amount of donated food from a generous CU community and because we have very creative cooks, we are able to feed our guests for an average of \$99 a day. **Every donated penny is used wisely and well!**

However, food is only part of the bills that our loyal volunteer treasurer Stevie Bennett pays every month. We also pay rent to New Covenant, we pay our share of the utility costs. We pay for garbage, insurance, equipment maintenance, van upkeep and gas. We give money every month to our Assistance Committee who help guests get state ID’s and Driver’s Licenses, as well as annual bus passes. Just like the guests who we feed one day but are hungry again the next day, so do the bills we pay one month come due again the next month. **Every donated dollar is appreciated!**



We at Daily Bread have been amazed and extremely gratified at the support we’ve received for our mission of feeding the hungry of our community. We appreciate everyone who supports us through the **Bread of the Month Club** or by sending a check whenever it’s financially feasible. The Daily Bread Board wants to thank everyone for opening their hearts and supporting what we do!

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we have expanded our mission! Two years ago Ellen McDowell was dreaming of a van so that we could feed our guests on the weekend, and Voila, two vans appeared! Recently she has been dreaming that we could have a space to provide social services to our guests so that they wouldn’t have to travel all over Champaign, and Voila, thanks to a grant from Provena Covenant Medical Center (written by Karen Kane), we now have our own **Faith2 Office!** The office is up and running in the lobby of New Covenant during the hours we serve lunch. Agencies meeting with our guests include Avicenna Community Health Center, Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Health Care for Homeless Vets, Services for Justice-involved Veterans, Disabled Veteran’s Outreach Program, SNAP, Link, Food Stamp Program, and the Tenant Union. BTW, Coordinator Dolores Sofranko is looking for volunteers to monitor the office. Email her at dsofranko1@juno.com if interested.



“Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without any presents..”

Louisa May Alcott

Far be it for anyone at Daily Bread to suggest that people should forgo presents at Christmas! We love Christmas presents, ‘the ribbons, the wrappings, the trimmings, the trappings,’ in the inimitable words of Dr. Seuss! But we’re guessing that, just like us, many of you have friends and family that are just so, so difficult to buy for. A mother who says ‘oh, no, dear, I don’t need a thing.’ A husband who, as soon as he’s asked for a Christmas list, goes out and buys everything on the list for himself. A sister who just downsized and got rid of years worth of stuff, but who would be hurt if she wasn’t remembered at Christmas. A friend whose impeccable taste is the polar opposite of your own impeccable taste.

Well, for the second year in a row, Daily Bread has the answer to your Christmas shopping problems! **The Daily Bread Gift Bazaar** is once again open for business. 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. This Christmas the Daily Bread Gift Bazaar is offering you the opportunity to give that hard-to buy-for person a very special and unique gift.

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 our guests 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 have recently upgraded the van so that we can serve hot soup as well. Just through October we’ve served 98,149 meals this year.

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. 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. Our models, Janet Piccioli, Sandy Hannun, Leslie Nietzel, and Karen Pickard are all known for their impeccable taste in aprons!

Contact Gina Stocking at 352-3611 or at socksfive@aol.com with any questions. Or check out our website at dailybreadsoupkitchen.com.

Happy Shopping!



In addition, the wonderful Indian cookbook “**Home Cooking of India**,” edited by Daily Bread’s own Friday crew chief Zarina Hock, sponsored by the CU Indian Cultural Society, and filled with wonderful recipes supplied by the local cooks, is now in its third printing and available again just in time for Christmas. Copies can be purchased at Strawberry Fields or Great Harvest Bread Company for just \$15. This is a wonderful holiday gift--and ALL profits go to Daily Bread. To date Daily Bread has received over \$7,000 from the sale of the cookbook! That’s over two months worth of food!

We’re still waiting for Zarina to serve an Indian meal on Friday.

“Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.” Pope John XXIII

It's **Backpack time** again at Daily Bread, and we will once again celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests for lunch every day. The Champaign Urbana community is very generous to the children of the community through such wonderful holiday programs as Shop with a Cop, the Salvation Army Toy Store, and Toys for Tots. But the men and women we feed every day are rarely remembered at Christmas. In addition many of them are estranged from their families. For many, these backpacks will be their only presents.

Backpacks will be given away on **Thursday, Dec. 20** beginning at 11:00 am. Three years ago we gave away 200 backpacks, Two years ago we gave away 400 backpacks. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks. Even the mathematically challenged can see the progression! We're hoping for **LOTS** of donated backpacks this year. We've also got Ellen McDowell wishing for lots of backpacks!



Backpacks should be stuffed with toiletries such as deodorant, hand lotion for hands chapped by the cold, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving cream, etc. Our guests appreciate cold weather items such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, tee shirts, long underwear, and regular underwear. Other items can 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.

Filled backpacks should be dropped off beginning the week of **Monday Dec. 10**. 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 (713 S. Elm Blvd. 359-3245). Please make sure that you leave your name when you drop off backpacks. Tax forms will be available at drop off sites.

Filling one or more backpacks is a wonderful holiday project for families, for grandparents and grandkids, for scout troops, classroom groups, church groups, social clubs, bridge clubs, tennis groups, etc.

Because of space issues, we can't accept used clothing this year.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call or e-mail Pam at 359-3245 phigle@aol.com or Ellen at 356-2551 ellenharms@aol.com

And here's another way to Support Daily Bread.

Please plan to shop at Ten Thousand Villages 105 N Walnut in downtown Champaign between 4:00-8:00 on Thursday, December 13th. Ten Thousand Villages will donate 20% of sales that evening to Daily Bread. Find great gifts and support Daily Bread at the same time!



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

Dale Evans

Just a few gifts to Daily Bread...

1. 440 pounds of oranges were donated to Daily Bread by supporters of the Champaign Central Band who chose to give to Daily Bread during the Band's recent fruit sale. That's about 750 oranges!
2. Jim Leonard, CEO at Carle, donated his long-time collection of pens so our new office Faith2 office is very well stocked. We may have more pens than oranges!
3. Daily Bread received a Walmart grant for \$2,000 for eco-friendly dishware for our mobile van.
4. St. Paul's Lutheran Church youth group in Chatsworth donated jambalaya from a New Orleans party.
5. The American Diabetes Step Off Walk donated sandwiches and chips.
6. Orange Krush donated \$1,373 for bus passes, and Daily Bread received a check for \$2,480.59 from the CU CROP Hunger Walk.
7. Rex Bennett and his band Electric Bitters played a benefit for Daily Bread at the Blind Pig.
8. Bentley's Pub once again had a chili cookoff with the donations going to Daily Bread.
9. Charles Stamper, who works for a bread distributor, arranged with his company for excess bread to be donated to Daily Bread. Charles and his wife Ada show up at Daily Bread with 16 trays a week, enough to make all our sack lunch sandwiches.
10. The First Mennonite Church donated lots of socks, the first donations we got for backpacks.
11. Shortly thereafter, we got another big donation of socks. Over 1100 pairs of socks were collected at a recent Central vs. Centennial high school football game where the cheerleaders orchestrated a friendly "Sock it to 'Em" rivalry. We haven't heard which high school scored the most socks.



12. Bobby Trist, from the Society of Friends, noticed that local institutions were discarding large amounts of toilet paper when they changed the large rolls in public restrooms. She now collects these rolls and brings them to Daily Bread where they are very popular, since Linc Cards don't pay for paper products. We spread rolls of TP out on the counter in the lobby and, in the words of Ellen McDowell, "they disappear like dew before the morning sun."

13. We frequently get donated food from Einstein Bagels and J Gumbo.

14. Jim Hiller donated children's books that we love to hand out to our guests' kids.

15. Daily Bread provided a soup kitchen sack lunch and a program about Daily Bread that included a video and a guest appearance of the Tuesday Crew Singers to the Stepping Out Group at St. Matthew Catholic Church. We were delighted to receive their collection of over \$700.

16. Our Speakers Bureau continues to be

busy! If you are interested in having someone from Daily Bread speak to your group, contact Karen Pickard at kkipickard@gmail.com.

17. And, Reagen Thompson celebrated her 11th birthday by asking her friends to bring gifts to Daily Bread. She and her friends donated cans of soup, boxes of macaroni and cheese, heavy jackets, lots of t-shirts, a new sweatshirt and an envelope filled with \$45. Happy, Happy Birthday, Reagen!!



**Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.
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***“Christmas will always be as long as we
stand heart to heart and hand in hand.”
Dr. Seuss
Merry Christmas from All of us at Daily Bread***

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