

Soup Scoop

Volume 16

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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.

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 Streets in Champaign. Lunches are served Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 12:30. Sack lunches, soup, and coffee are served from our mobile van on weekends. For more information, check out our website at <dailybreadsoupkitchen.com>

“I Can No Other Answer Make, But Thanks and Thanks and Ever Thanks...”
~ William Shakespeare

Good, old William Shakespeare speaks for all of us at Daily Bread who can only shake our collective heads and say, ‘Thanks and Thanks’ to the many, many people and groups who have given so generously to Daily Bread in so many different and unique ways this past year. Many give over and over. Many give anonymously. All give from the heart, and we are very grateful. There are so many gifts for which we are thankful.

The Gift of Backpacks

To say that our 4th Annual Christmas Backpack Give-away was a resounding success would be a gross understatement of what actually occurred! After a wonderful article in The News Gazette, well-filled backpacks began arriving at Daily Bread. By the December 20th give-away day, we had well over a thousand backpacks to give to our guests: backpacks stuffed with gloves, hats, scarves, toiletries, sweatshirts, anything and everything to help recipients survive a cold Illinois winter. Imagine a large room in your house, and then imagine



that room almost entirely filled with backpacks. Mountains of backpacks! That’s what 1,000 backpacks look like!

A host of volunteers spent the afternoon of December 19th sorting all of those backpacks by gender and by size, filling empty backpacks with donated items, and stuffing extra items into filled backpacks that felt a little light. We ended up with a women’s room, a men’s room, and a children’s room, all filled with well-stuffed backpacks.

All that sorting proved invaluable as we were able to give away over 700 backpacks in just three hours the next day! Our guests waited patiently in a line that stretched for blocks. One smart man even pitched a tent that protected him from the snow flurries that sporadically fell. We passed out fleece blankets to the children waiting in line, and Santa even made an appearance, along with his helpers who passed out cookies.

For many of our guests, these backpacks were their only Christmas gifts, and everyone seemed well pleased. A librarian at the Champaign Library sent us this email: "Thought you'd like to know that there's a guy sitting here next to the children's desk going through his backpack and looking at all the stuff in it. He seems very pleased. He looked up and smiled warmly at us when he finished repacking." A volunteer at the give-away shared this story: "One man who had waited in line for some time to get his backpack was



stunned to realize that the backpack he was given was filled with a variety of items. As he looked through the pack, he kept saying, 'But these are all things I need!' He thought he was getting an empty backpack." And a volunteer at the children's room told this story: "A little girl, maybe seven years old, very softly whispered that her favorite color was pink. Her eyes lit up and her smile was as wide as her face when I handed her a bright pink Hello Kitty backpack almost as tall as she was. She hugged the backpack and walked out with it on her back, smiling the whole way."

The remainder of the backpacks were handed out to guests who were unable to make it on the give-away date.

There are so many people and groups that we need to thank. New Covenant gave up Sunday School classrooms so that we would have space to store and sort backpacks. Champaign Rotary donated eighty very generously filled packs that were highly sought after by our guests. The Unitarian Universalist Church brought in two full carloads of backpacks. The Thursday Crew made 600 sack lunches that we handed out along with the backpacks. Donations came in from school groups, bridge clubs, scout groups, Sunday School classes, families, office groups. The spirit of Christmas was shining brightly at Daily



Bread this holiday season.

We wish that we could individually thank everyone who donated and made our 2012 Backpack Project such a success. The following is only a partial list of those who contributed. Some individuals and groups not on this list wished to remain anonymous. Others were inadvertently omitted due to the huge number of donations that poured in. To everyone who helped in this project, we thank you! We hope that you enjoyed filling the backpacks as much as our guests enjoyed receiving them. And we hope that you keep an eye out for backpacks and other items all year long so that the 2013 Backpack Project can be as successful as this year's was!

Champaign Rotary, Unitarian Universalist Church, Nancy Creason, Maggie and Tim Roberts, Linda Ross, John Gilpin, Ruth Ann Nichols, Sarah Burny, Oleta Miller, St. Matthew Stepping Out Group, Tom Palmisano, Lois Rooney, Judy Einck, Nancy Williams, Phyllis Favero, Tom Crist, Karen Metz, David Madden, Dianne Hays, Janet Payonk, Mary Smith, Glennett Barrett, Joella Jones, Kimberly Duffin, Jeanine Hammer, Carle Spine Center, Connie McNary, Annie McManus, Patricia Brady, Ellen and Austin McDowell, Joyce Conley, Luis Rooney, Leslie Myricks, Cheryl Hahn, Susan Leskis, Maggie Bauer, Ernie Fisher, Liz Lindemann, Sally Zahos, Diane Heath, Jane Piper's Bridge Club, Irene Roelfs, Kay Grabow's class at Thomas Paine School, Tina McEllin, Peggy Frerichs, John and Deanna Wright, LouAnn Koebel, Mary Fonner, Todd Dawson, Molly MacRae and the Champaign Library Children's Department, Provena Peri-Operative Services, Antonio Evers, Karen Carpenter, Trish Kever, Yvonne Mears, Randy Hughes, Judy Langley, Rebecca Ginsburg, Gene and Julia Robinson, Jahann Vance, Judy Sebens, St. Matt's Grades 5,6,7, and 8, Gail Block, Donna Ayers, Melanie Jackson, Deb Brinkmann, Glenna Rogers, Donna Musson, Debbie Raup, Mary Shelden, Diane Clark, Beth Woodside, Russell Overholt, Ann Weber, Jolene Bowen, Tom and Chris Scott, Mary Lou Widloski, Don Carter, Nancy and Dean Olson, Molly Neuman, Mary Stech, Dale Bauer, Pat Madsen, Christie Clinic Convenient Care, Sarah William, Julie and Larry Booth, Lyle Fettig, Paul and Cathy Thurston, Shirley Odom, Brenda Rines, Audrey and Leo Chapman, Teryl and Bill Pigott, Jerry and Pat Guthrie, Rita Campion, Lani McAuley, Jim and Mary Anne Pankau, Tom and Marie Slattery, Richard and Lois Pelazar, Kenneth Travers, Tess Bennett, Sharon Conry, Carol and Carl Belber, Kenny and Karen Wood, Martha Moore, Mary Jo and Richard Porter, Cheryl Gherna, Jack and Gina Stocking, Lucy Ryan, Bobbi McCall, Carle Lab/Hematology, Betsy Sachs, Gloria Grant, Deanna Loschen, Linda Hicks, Dick and Carol Grabher, Mary Hirschfeld, Bill Denny, Fred and Becky Strater, Theresa Sweeney, Randy and Carol Niemann, Jeanine Black, John Britt, Joseph Meeker, Inez Britt, Suellen Brya Fink, Kim Curtis, McKinley Church and Foundation, Kirk and Kalah McGraw, Jodi Matheson, Jim White, Donald Dodds, Cesaria Lancaster, Dennis Cockrum, Lolita Perdue, Sandy Kimpel, Steve and Laura Hamilton, Karen McKinzie, Katherine Reutter, Susan Marshall, Janet Pope, Nancy Hatch, Denise Novak, Bonnie Boswell, Ruthann Evans, Helen Grandone, Jan Reynolds, Kathy Hansen, Chris Main, Sue Laesch, Peg O'Donoghue, Mary Bissey, Karen Pickard, Gloria Arizaga, Ellen Harms, Judy Nowak, Betsy Boyle, Judy Sehy, Mimi Newman, Barbara Callaghan, Glenda Henderson, Judi Griffith, Donna O'Brian, Rosemary Sabbia, Linda Sloat, Bev Schmidt, John and Ramona Harner, Linda Peete, Leslie Myricks, Parkland College Admissions and Records, Matt and Bonnie Stanton, Pinetree Subdivision Residents organized by Beverly Herman, Judy Yost's grandchildren Cora and Nate Strigotte, Carol and Gibb Williamson, Mary Whalen, Jean Bargren, Al and Nina Heckman, Rosemary Raeske, Kim Powers, John and Linda Braden, Abby Ping, Ruth Branaman, Zarina Hock, Karon Rasmussen, Janis R. Loschen, Kristin Wetzal, Christie Clinic Convenient Care, Becky Grady, Ted and Cathy Holden, Jim and Bonnie Hudson, Sally McConkey, Cinda Pettigrew, Patricia Hruby Powell, Danielle Bender, Adriane Powell, Lisa Bender, Kathy Bull, Brent Hettinger, Matt Roeschley, Carrie Penning Bush, Vicki Holloway, Boy Scout Troop 66 of Pesotum, Marietta Joria, Clare and Alan Haussermann, Sari Schnitzlein, Weight Watchers Group, Terry Prim, Evelyn Karcher, Bank Champaign, Polly Hall, Trish Anton, Rick Hazlewood, Kerry and Linda Kincaid, Pat Hosier, Dorothy Weber, Sue and Denise Outlaw, New Covenant Fellowship, Peter Beak, Steve and Sue Shafer, Randy and Patti Vanderwerf, St. John the Divine, First United Methodist Church Dorcas Circle, Lisa Miller, Steve and Deb Holstein, Becki Salzman, Janet Piccioli, Amy Waller, Bruce Schiel, John Neff, Joan Reeves, Litania Sports Group, Miss Brown's 3rd Grade Class at Lincoln Trail School in Mahomet, Carle Cancer Center, Jane Cook, Christie Clinic Pediatrics, Marlene Wentworth, John Peisker, Kurt Buckley, Laurie Larson, Vicki Bond, Joe Bubon, Sylvia Jackson, Lalitha Yekkirala, Claire Billing, John Dobbs, Sherry Pettegrew, Joan Chenoweth, Erika Hackman, George Williams, Melissa Muckenhirn, Urbana Girl Scout Troop 2539, Edison Middle School Girl Scouts, Laura Vollrath, Clark Breeze, Linda Sims, Vince Kistner, Victor and Bobbie Fein, Teri and Erin Selin, Holt and Sally Babbit, James and Traci Barkley, Mary Barrineau and Jeff Unger, Sam Beshers and Lynn Wiley, Beth Carbonneau, Jerry Carden and Tim Temple, Peri and David Ceperlely, Yolanda and Carl Deal, Nancy Dietrich and Russell Rybicki, Laurie and Rich Ducey, Joe and Sandy Finnerty, Karen and Michael Folk, Leon and Kathy Frizzell, Axel and Elaine Gehrman, Wendy Graves, Jennifer Greene, Jim and Sandy Hannum, Steve and AJ Herzog, Kristy Higgs, Gail Hueting, Marcy Joncich, Cindy and Michael Loui, Patricia and Terence Molinar, Karla Peterson, Umeeta Sadarangani and Marilyn Ryan, Sue Searing and Christine Jenkins, Mona Shannon, David and Anne Sharpe, Cindy Wakeland, Molly McCrae, Dee Ann Hart, Pat Hinton, Julia Bland, Patty Anderson, Song Chang, Dianne Clark, Naomi Rampian, Lyla Noffitz, Cindy Howie, Joan Hanson, Eva Ginsburg and Steve Scher, Joan Zernich, Ed Pavlich, Patricia Stangl, Bill Shumacher, Bank Champaign, Mr. and Mrs. William Carpenter, Pam and Jim Hagel, Jim Hiller, Stevie and Dick Bennett, Ann McDowell, Bobbie Trist, Peg Hoffman, Ed and Sharon Hettinger, Students at Monticello Middle School, Engineering Career Services, Barbara Day, Carol Pryor, Dan Stenzel, Blake, Ryan, Mae, & Carlos Donaldson, Jr., Johanna Harms, and many more!

The Gift of Socks

We are continually touched at Daily Bread at the generosity of our supporters. We are also impressed by the different ways that our supporters recognize and respond to the needs of the guests we serve. Several years ago a Daily Bread supporter was in New York City on a cold, snowy day when he noticed a homeless man sitting on the sidewalk with bare feet. He was so shocked at the sight of those bare feet that he took off his own warm socks and gave them to the homeless man. Since then, every year at Christmas, he and his wife donate one gross (144 pairs!) of the warmest, sturdiest socks that Body N Sole



carries to be handed out to our guests. Because so many of our guests got warm socks in their Christmas backpacks, this year we decided to save the socks and give them to guests as Valentine gifts. On Thursday, February 14th, we handed out warm socks tied with a bright red ribbon to the guests who ate lunch with us that day, a Happy Valentine's gift from a generous couple.

In addition, Champaign Surplus donated disposable hand and toe warmers which were much appreciated on a cold, winter day. Some days even the warmest socks aren't enough to keep feet warm.



The Gift of Blankets

The students at Monticello Middle School want to warm up more than the toes of the guests at the soup kitchen. They have been busy making fleece blankets for our guests. The project began with a raffle. A classroom made a blanket, sold raffle tickets, and with the profits from the raffle bought enough fleece to make more blankets. The students then delivered the blankets to

Daily Bread and were given a tour of the facility. They were all so moved by the Daily Bread story that they decided to make more blankets. Since then, different classes have made trips to Daily Bread to deliver the latest blankets. Rumor has it that they stop at a fabric store on the way out of town and load up with more fleece so that they can get started on their next blankets.

The Gift of a Van

As most of you know, because Daily Bread operates out of the Fellowship Hall of New Covenant Fellowship, we are only able to serve hot meals Monday through Friday. Hunger, however, doesn't go away on weekends. Two years ago, the generous donation of a van allowed us to begin serving our guests soup, sandwiches, and coffee on Saturday and Sunday. But that original 1985 van was being held together with duct tape and prayers! Our weekend crew is incredibly grateful to MBS Envision for their recent donation of a 2002 E250 converted van, complete with a lift.



The Gift of Shelving

We have well over 150 active volunteers at Daily Bread, and the advantage of all that manpower is that it includes a wide range of talents. We are so grateful to Friday volunteer Tony Welsh who used his carpentry skills to rebuild and replace the shelving in our storage unit that was badly bowing under the weight of canned items.

The Gift of New Equipment

When you are serving 200 meals a day five days a week, your equipment gets a heavy workout. That's why we are so grateful for the new appliances that were donated recently. Our



dishwashers are crazy about the new dishwasher that came from a grant from Community Foundation. Our cooks are delighted by the new stove that was donated anonymously. And our guests will soon be delighted with the new ice machine that was part of a Champaign Rotary grant.

The Gift of Fellowship

While we at Daily Bread take pride in the delicious, nutritious meals that we serve our guests, we also take pride in the sense of community and fellowship that has been created. A volunteer overheard a guest tell a friend: "They are so nice to you here. They take such good care of you, it's just like home. Makes you feel like they would miss you if you didn't come..." (This may have been the same guest who once told us that our meatloaf was even better than his mother's!) We are all grateful for the warm fellowship between volunteers and guests that exists at Daily Bread.

The Gift of Celebration

Nitaya "Nicky" Dejsas, the owner of Nitaya Thai Restaurant, wanted to do something special to celebrate her birthday. So she called Daily Bread and offered to donate a meal. On March 22, our guests happily dined on Thai cuisine! Happy Birthday, Nicky! Mrs. Marietta and Mrs. Case's 4th graders at St. Matthew School made table decorations and our guests all enjoyed two desserts as we celebrated Fat Tuesday. Our loyal U of I volunteers wanted to do something special for our guests so they baked sugar cookies in our kitchen and decorated them with icing and sprinkles for special Easter treats. And, Della Chambers of the Tuesday crew created lovely Easter table decorations.



The Gift of Cash

Most of you probably remember being a teenager when it was nice to get a present but even nicer when that present was money! We at Daily Bread are continually grateful for all the checks that arrive regularly from our Bread of the Month members and all the checks that arrive irregularly from other supporters. Thanks to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank where we can fill up a van with food for less than it takes to fill up the gas tank, thanks to our creative cooks who manage to serve incredible meals to over 200 guests a day on a \$100 a day budget, and thanks to our very frugal treasurer Stevie Bennett, who pinches pennies until they warp, we are able to stretch your donations and operate in the black. As the number of guests we feed daily continues to rise, your donations are ever more appreciated.



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



***Daily Bread is most grateful
For the Gift of Volunteers
Who come in all sorts and sizes,
Always arrive with a smile,
Show up in all kinds of weather.***

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