

Soup Scoop

Volume 19

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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.

"I got up one Christmas morning and we didn't have nothing to eat. We didn't have an apple, we didn't have an orange, we didn't have a cake, we didn't have nothing."

~Muddy Waters, blues singer

Muddy Waters never ate at Daily Bread Soup Kitchen (although he played his guitar at Panama Reds in 1979 and 1980). But there are many individuals like Muddy Waters in Champaign-Urbana, people who wake up every morning with nothing to eat, not an apple, an orange, not a cake. There are people like a guest who once told us, "I haven't eaten in two days until I came here." People like the guest who told us recently, "Daily Bread is the only place I ever get a meal where I feel full when I'm done eating." People like the guest who told a volunteer, "I've eaten in a lot of soup kitchens and most of them have bad food and they don't treat you nice. At Daily Bread the food is good and they make you feel like they are glad you came."



Muddy Waters never ate at Daily Bread, but over 200 hungry men, women, and children of our community eat with us every day. They come for the hot soup, the crisp salad, the fresh fruit, the hot entree, and the sweet dessert, and they leave with a sack lunch that is supper for many. Many fill up a thermos with hot coffee before they go back out into the cold.

The guests who come to the soup kitchen arrive with a myriad of other issues besides hunger. No one chooses to eat at a soup kitchen just because of its cuisine, good though it may be! Many of those issues are beyond the scope of what we can do to help, although we do what we can through our assistance program. But what we can do is make sure that everyone who comes to our table is treated with respect. We try to greet every guest with a smile, and we always make sure that everyone leaves with a full stomach.

Most of you reading this will wake up Christmas morning to the happy shouts of children, to the smells of bacon and egg casseroles, to the sparkling lights on a Christmas tree. But, like Muddy Waters, some of your neighbors will wake up hungry.

Phyllis McGinley, a Pulitzer Prize winning American poet, once wrote of the Christmas season:

*"Please to put a nickel, please to put a dime.
How petitions trickle in at Christmas time!"*

We at Daily Bread know that you are inundated with pleas for donations from many, many deserving charities every holiday season. But we would ask that you donate a few of your nickels and dimes to Daily Bread. We can promise that we will use them wisely. We feed over 200 guests for only \$100 a day, an amazing accomplishment only made possible by creative cooks and generous friends like the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Gordon Food Service, Urbana Garden, and many others.

The guests who come to Daily Bread this holiday season may wake up hungry, but, thanks to a generous Champaign-Urbana community, they will always find a meal at the soup kitchen. With a piece of cake.

“Christmas is Friendship, Christmas is Caring...”

So, you may be wondering, where exactly does that cake come from? If we're cooking a hot meal for over two hundred guests every day, there's surely not time enough or oven space enough to bake cakes! Nor would it be possible at grocery store prices to feed those two hundred guests dessert or even a hot meal on only \$100 a day.

We absolutely could not do what we do every day without our friends at Eastern Illinois Foodbank! Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a clearinghouse for excess food in our area. It serves over 200 agencies in a 14 county area and provides food for over 100,000 individuals every year. Last year the Foodbank provided 7.3 million pounds of food to local families through food banks, shelters, soup kitchens, and other programs. Food is donated by local manufacturers, retailers and distributors, directly purchased, or provided through the USDA commodity program. It's a godsend for the hungry of our community. And it's a godsend for Daily Bread.

A Daily Bread volunteer shops at the Foodbank every weekday. Here's one shopper's story:



I'm the Tuesday shopper, and I love shopping at the Foodbank. The Foodbank is definitely NOT a grocery store. What's there varies greatly from day to day, so every shopping trip is an adventure. It's a bit like combining a trip to TJ Maxx and dumpster diving! Every Tuesday morning I stop by Daily Bread, check with our cooks for requests (“Could you try to get some dinner rolls?”), check our pantry for what we're low on (“Only a few desserts left and we're low on juice...”), and head off for my hour of shopping.

The Foodbank is a giant warehouse located on North Shore Drive in Urbana. There's a huge walk in refrigerator that is usually, but not always, full of fresh produce and other refrigerated items. There are shelves with canned goods. There is a large upright freezer that usually, but not always, has meat. And there are huge crates that are usually, but not always, filled with breads, pastries, and desserts, most of which have come from local stores.

Several years ago celebrating a big birthday, I threw myself a party and ordered a delicious chocolate cake from Sam's. Two days later I found an identical cake in a crate at the Foodbank. Our guests enjoyed the cake as much as my birthday guests did. Mine cost \$30; the Foodbank cake was free! On most days I dig through the crates and fill box after box with pies, cakes, cookies, and muffins. If I'm lucky, I bring back the requested dinner rolls for the cooks. Cost: free

My next stop is the walk-in refrigerator where I load up on fresh produce. Our guests love the fruit and salad ingredients that I find. It's here too where I usually find juice and other drinks. One hot summer day we were in need of cold drinks for our guests, and a Foodbank employee asked me if I would like a pallet of bottled water and tea. Sure, I said, only to be surprised that the pallet weighed 1,500 pounds! Needless, to say, that week our guests were very well hydrated. I, on the other hand, was sore from lifting all that weight. Cost here: refrigerated items, \$.06 a pound, drinks \$.11 a pound, produce-free

The grocery shelves are a great place to find canned vegetables, soups, pasta, etc. On Tuesday El Toro donates a taco dinner once a month, so I'm usually on the lookout for salsa, refried beans, and tortillas to stretch the meal. Cost here-\$.23 a pound.

It's in the freezer section that I sometimes find real treasures! Hamburger, chicken, beef briskets, sausage, can't beat the cost at \$.23 a pound!!

When my hour is up, I've usually completely loaded the entire back of my van. My favorite part of the trip is arriving back at Daily Bread where volunteers help me unload, and I make them guess how much I've spent. It's a rare day that I exceed \$50. Usually it's much less.

Every day feels like Christmas at the FoodBank!

*"One can never have enough socks.
Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair."*
~Professor Dumbledore in the first Harry Potter book

It's almost Christmas again at Daily Bread, a time when we, like Professor Dumbledore, are reminded of the importance of socks on cold winter days. It was almost five years ago when volunteer Stevie Bennett noticed many of our guests arriving for lunch without warm socks or hats or gloves, without the items they needed to endure a cold Champaign winter. She suggested that we ask our supporters for filled backpacks to give our guests at Christmas, and Daily Bread's **Backpack Project** was born. We gave away 200 backpacks that first year to very appreciative guests. The next year we gave away 400 backpacks. In 2012 we gave away 800 backpacks, and last year we were thrilled to give away 1,000 backpacks! (We were also thrilled that our numbers finally stopped increasing exponentially!)

And now, once again, it's backpack time at Daily Bread. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will 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. Professor Dumbledore complained that he received only books, not socks for Christmas. Many of our guests get no presents at all.

Once again, we are asking for donations of backpacks. Backpacks should be stuffed with practical winter necessities. Toiletries such as deodorant, hand lotion for hands chapped by the cold, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving cream, etc., are much appreciated as are cold weather items such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, sweatshirts, tee shirts, long underwear, and regular underwear. Other items our guests enjoy are hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, small fleece blankets, candy, gum, food items. Children's backpacks could include a small toy. All items should be **NEW**. We are asking that all backpacks be new or nearly new as well.

All backpacks need to be labelled with the gender and size of its 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 for both men and women. 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.

Backpacks will be given away on Thursday, Dec. 19 beginning at 11:00 am. There will be NO hot lunch served that day. All backpack recipients will be given a sack lunch along with their backpack. Wednesday, Dec. 18th will be sorting and organizing day.

Filled backpacks should be dropped off beginning **Monday Dec. 9 through Tuesday December 17**. 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, book groups, etc.

Because of space issues, we can't accept used clothing this year. But we would love to have more socks!

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



"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."
~Charles Schulz

Just a few 'little extras' we've received recently:

1. Faith United Methodist Church sponsored a concert benefiting Daily Bread featuring renowned guitarist Phil Keagy.
2. Instead of giving favors to their wedding guests, soup kitchen volunteers Kristin Stocking and Dave Tarrant made a donation to Daily Bread. A lovely gesture from a lovely couple.
3. County Board Chairman Al Kurtz donated the honorarium he received from the Champaign County Retired Teachers to Daily Bread.
4. Kraft Foods annually sponsors a "Company Store" where employees get to buy products by the case at cost. Kraft donated their surplus food to Daily Bread. We are very grateful for the van load of shredded cheese, nuts, peanut butter, A1 sauce, Parmesan cheese, boxed potatoes, etc.
5. Leslie Kimble designs and sells bags made from discarded burlap from Columbia Street Roastery (which also is a good friend of Daily Bread with their coffee donations). She donated 15% of her sales to Daily Bread.



6. University of Illinois student volunteers from APO came to Daily Bread and baked and decorated cookies for our guests at Halloween.
7. Donna McMahon donated bushels and bushels of apples and plums, which were very appreciated by guests.
8. A special thanks to other local gardeners who regularly showed up with tomatoes and cucumbers.
9. University of Illinois athletes spent many hours bagging up chips and snacks for our sack lunches.
10. University of Illinois Employees Credit Union donated 150 cupcakes.
11. Leal School PTA donated five cases of Kraft Recipe Makers.
12. Meyer Capel Law Office collected \$142 on their We Care Day and donated the funds to Daily Bread.
13. The Rape Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services donated feminine hygiene products.
14. The Champaign-Urbana Elks Lodge 2497 donated \$650 to Daily Bread.
15. The weekend volunteers enjoyed a ten course meal prepared by volunteer Bao.
16. Daily Bread received \$2468.56 from this year's Crop Walk.
17. Claire Vivian celebrated her 9th birthday with a party. In lieu of gifts, she asked her friends to bring a donation to Daily Bread. Happiest Birthday, Claire!!

Lastly...

1. Daily Bread volunteers do it all --- we cook, we serve, we do dishes, we even speak in public. In the spring of 2012, the **DBSK Speakers Bureau** was formed. Our speakers have addressed over 30 groups sharing a volunteer-produced video and the message of what we do at the soup kitchen.

We've been to service clubs, classrooms, church groups, and office gatherings. As you plan your programming, please consider a DBSK speaker on your agenda. Contact Karen Pickard 359-0100, or kkipickard@gmail.com to schedule a speaker. Volunteers are ready and eager to bring the DBSK story to your group.



2. Once again Daily Bread will be offering gifts for those hard-to-buy for folks on your Christmas list.

For the third 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.

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

3. At Daily Bread we have our own **Christmas Wish List**. There are many items that we use regularly that we are unable to get at the Foodbank. We are always in need of ziplock sandwich bags, commercial size cans of vegetables, bus tokens, stamps, silverware.

4. Our Faith2 Office has been renamed and reorganized as the **RAP Office** (which stands for Referral and Assistance Program, an acronym created by Ellen McDowell. (Rumor has it that Ellen McD has in fact been spotted 'rapping,' although there is currently no visual evidence. However, we are hopeful that she may perform at the annual Christmas party!) The RAP office provides a place for community agencies to meet with our guests during our serving hours. The RAP office is funded under a FAITH2 grant from Presence Medical Center. We are happy to announce that Greg Hatch has volunteered to co-ordinate this program.

5. Daily Bread is joining the 21st Century! Many of you have checked out our website at dailybreadsoupkitchen.com. Now we're on Facebook and Twitter!

6. Because our expenses are ongoing, we are very grateful for supporters who join our **Bread of the Month Club** and donate to Daily Bread on a regular basis since these donations provide us with a reliable income stream. (We are, of course, also very grateful for all other donations as well! In fact, we have never met a donation for which we weren't grateful!) As most of you know, we are an entirely volunteer-run organization, so all of your donations go to direct guest services. So, please, please, keep them coming!



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“Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.”
~Pope John XXIII
Happy Holidays
from the Volunteers at Daily Bread

Mail donations to:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
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