

Soup Scoop

Volume 22

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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 St., Champaign. Lunches are served M-F from 11:00-12:30. Sack lunches and coffee are served from a mobile van on weekends.

‘...and the Dreams that You Dare to Dream Really Do Come True...’

Christmas has arrived early at Daily Bread this year. It arrived at 3:00 on October 22 to be precise. That’s when Bob Goss, Daily Bread Soup Kitchen’s esteemed Board President, signed the final papers and Daily Bread became the legal owner of its very own building! The old Emerald City Restaurant and Bar located at 118 N. First Street, just across the street from the Champaign Police Department, is the future permanent home of Daily Bread.



It seems somehow apropos that Daily Bread’s new home is going to be Emerald City. 90 year old Ellen McDowell, Daily Bread’s founder, moral compass, and president emeritus, is a quintessential dreamer. She saw the need for a soup kitchen in our community, dreamed up the original soup kitchen at Catholic Worker House back in the early 1990’s-- and she made that dream come true. When the Catholic Worker House Board decided to close the soup kitchen in 2009, she kept the soup kitchen dream alive by leading all of us to a new location at New Covenant Fellowship where we incorporated as Daily Bread. Ellen’s dreams of a weekend food truck, her dream of a referral social service office-- she made these dreams come true as well. Ellen McDowell has never been afraid to dream big. For the last five years Ellen never gave up her dream of Daily Bread’s having its own home, a home where we could serve our guests a hot meal seven days a week. It’s easy to imagine Ellen donning shiny red slippers, and leading us to Emerald City! And it’s easy to imagine her, as she took the key and led us all into Emerald City for the first time on that momentous October day, saying to herself with a smile, “Oh, There’s No Place Like Home.”

Questions and Questions and Questions, Oh My!

1. Why do you need a new building?

Before we even begin to answer that question, it's important that we thank our friends at New Covenant Fellowship who have been so generous to Daily Bread over the last five years. They took us in when no one else would, offering up their lobby for us to hand out sandwiches. As our relationship grew, they opened up their kitchen to us and allowed us to begin serving hot meals in their Fellowship Hall. Eventually they turned over several Sunday School classrooms to us as our storage needs increased. Our joint commitment to social welfare made for a great partnership.

A. Our primary reason for wanting our own building is so that we can truly be a Daily soup kitchen. Because New Covenant is a church, their facilities are not available to us on weekends. Because our mission is feeding the hungry of our community, it is important to us that we are able to provide hot meals seven days a week. Hunger is different from most other social problems. If a person is cold, a coat will provide warmth for the entire winter. If a person has no car, a bus pass will provide transportation for a year. If a person is barefoot, a pair of shoes will last for a long time. But if a person is hungry, a hot meal will fill him up for the day, but he will wake up hungry tomorrow. And the day after. And the day after that. And on weekends. We have dealt with this somewhat by providing sandwiches, soup, and coffee out of a mobile van on weekends, but a bologna sandwich is not very filling on a cold, winter day or very tasty under a hot sun.

B. The second reason for wanting our own building is that our mission has grown immensely from the 65 guests that we used to serve at Catholic Worker House or the 40 guests who arrived at New Covenant for those early sack lunches. Today we are currently serving a hot meal to 250 men, women, and children every day. We have simply outgrown the space available to us at New Covenant. The new facility will allow us to seat 125 guests rather than the 82 we can currently seat.

C. As our numbers have grown, so has our need for storage. The CU community has been extremely generous to us in terms of food donations. However, with the limited storage space available at New Covenant, we have not always been able to accept all those donations. We are currently storing non-perishable items in two storage sheds miles from New Covenant. Again, New Covenant has been more than generous with their available space. There simply is not enough space in the facility to expand to meet our storage needs.

D. Because of church activities, New Covenant has determined our hours of operation. Although we don't expect these to change greatly, we are looking forward to having flexibility in this area, especially in inclement weather.

2. Why This Location?

We have been looking for a new building, for our own home, for several years. Our wish list included a sizeable space with ample storage, a location near major bus lines, available parking for volunteers, reasonable price, and reasonable renovation possibilities. The Emerald City property at 118 N. First Street met all those requirements. We are very much aware that the First Street Association is not happy with our purchase of the building, but we are committed to working with them and being the very best neighbor we can be.

3. How much will the renovation cost?

That's a question that we don't have an answer for yet. The figure of \$400,000 has been suggested, but that's only a guess, and we are hoping that it could be much less. We are currently drawing up a wish list that we will present to our architect. The building itself is sound. Because the building has recently been a restaurant and bar, the bare bones of a workable kitchen are there. We will, of course, have to remove the bar and reconfigure the space to serve our needs. We are a group of volunteers who have managed to serve 250 guests a complete hot meal every day for only \$100 a day in food costs, so we are quite good at stretching a dollar and frugally addressing all financial

issues. In addition, we have Stevie Bennett as our treasurer, and she guards our funds like a mother bear guards her cubs. Our renovation costs may not be cheap, but, rest assured, we will use all money wisely and well.

4. **When do you hope to be in?**

Ideally we would love to be in the new building by the end of next summer. However, as anyone who has ever done a renovation knows, the gap between ideal and reality is usually pretty wide. We will see. Meanwhile, we will continue making sure that the hungry of CU continue to be fed.

5. **How can we help?**

The Lion, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Man headed to Emerald City asking for courage, a brain, and a heart respectively. We at Daily Bread are eagerly setting out on our own trek to Emerald City. We're feeling pretty brave about the whole endeavor, we've thought it through frontwards and backwards, and we all feel in our hearts that this is the right time and the right place for us.

We would ask you all to join us in this journey along our own 'yellow brick road.' As most of you know, Daily Bread is a unique organization because we are made up entirely of volunteers! We have NO paid staff. All money raised goes directly to our mission of feeding the hungry of our community.

Daily Bread gets NO government funding, except for a few local grants. All of our money comes from donations. The CU community has always been very generous during the Christmas season. This year we are asking, if you are able, that you stretch your donation a bit. In addition to using your generous donations to feed the hungry, this year we hope to raise additional funds so that we can turn Emerald City into the "Home" that Ellen McDowell has been dreaming about.

With your help we hope to soon be able to tell people, "Wow, we're not on White Street Anymore!"

DBSK Assistance Program-'Where Troubles Melt like Lemon Drops!'



Okay, the lemon drops might be taking the Wizard of Oz theme a bit too far, but we do want everyone to know that, while DBSK is mainly about the food, it's not only about the food! In addition to serving our guests a delicious, hot meal every weekday, we also have an assistance program that tries to help guests with other needs. Because most individuals who are hungry often have other problems as well, we have thought long and hard about how we can help. We've arrived at a twofold solution. Well aware that we can't be all things to all people, we have created a Referral Assistance Program. Greg Hatch is the dedicated coordinator of the RAP Office. We invite local social service agencies to use the office so that our guests can get help without having to travel all over town. We also have trained volunteers available who refer guests to places where they can get help with such issues as housing, prescription drug costs, etc.

We also provide certain types of help in more concrete ways. We help guests get state ID's and driver's licenses since, without a current ID, it's almost impossible for a guest to get a job or any kind of government assistance. Our biggest program is our bus pass program. Twice a year we provide bus passes to guests with demonstrated need. For \$72 we can provide a guest with transportation for an entire year. This past Saturday we were able to meet over 75 guests at the bus station and get them bus passes. In all we give out between 150-200 bus passes every year. We are extremely grateful to United Way for their \$10,000 grant that helps us fund our Assistance Program and to the City of Urbana who donated \$2200 for bus passes for Urbana residents.

Our Assistance Program isn't able to melt away all our guests' troubles, but it does let them leave Daily Bread with a full stomach and an avenue to more appropriate help.

Backpacks, and Backpacks, and Backpacks, Oh My!

For the sixth year in a row it's Backpack time at Daily Bread. DBSK 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 Christmas 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 **Friday, Dec. 19** beginning at 10:00 am. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks in two hours. We're assuming that we will need at least that many 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 items could include hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, small fleece blankets, candy, gum, food items. Children's backpacks could include a small toy. Because these packs will be a special gift for our guests, we are asking that all items be **NEW**. We are asking that all backpacks be new or nearly new as well. Because of space limitations we can't accept donations of used clothing.

All backpacks should be labeled with the gender and size of recipient (i.e., Man-XL). Last year most of our guests, both men and women, requested at least a size Large, most preferred XL, and there is also a need for some 2X and 3X bags. This year we are requesting children's backpacks only for non-school-age children. Children's backpacks need to be labeled 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. 8**. 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), at Ruthann Evans' (4414 Crossgate Dr. 398-5687) 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 a backpack is a wonderful activity for families, grandparents and grandkids, church groups, book clubs, service organizations, scout groups, bridge clubs, social clubs, classrooms, etc. We are extremely grateful to everyone who participates in this annual project and helps bring some holiday joy to our guests at the soup kitchen.

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

Special Thanks To:

**Russell Overstreet, Christina White and Marty Burke, Angie Paulson, Carol Pearson, and Patricia Yowell for their donations of fruit, veggies, and other food

**Joan Reeves for her donation of silverware

**Juvenile Detention Center for the fresh produce from their garden

**The eight teenagers from the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, along with their staff member Lynette Correa, who came and worked in the kitchen



**U of Illinois football players who showed up in their jerseys, entertained our guests, and worked on the line, in the kitchen, and even washed dishes.

**All the U of Illinois varsity athletes who get together at the Irwin Center on campus under the direction of Cathy Kaler and bag up chips and cookies for our sack lunches

**The couple who stopped by and handed Bob Goss an envelope with enough cash to feed our guests for almost a month--and who left without ever leaving their names!

**Claire Vivian, who decided to ask her friends to make a donation to Daily Bread rather than bring gifts for her 10th birthday party (just like she did her for 9th birthday!) Happy, happy birthday, Claire!!

**Delta Gamma sorority for the gallons of apple cider

**Orange Krush who donated \$2000 in October

**Piato's Cafe in Lincoln Square, who once again hosted a luncheon benefit for Daily Bread

**Walgreens for coming in two days and giving free flu shots to our guests

**Christina and Marty White who brought in Halloween pumpkins filled with treats for the children we serve

**St. Matthew's PTA Market Day Program that donated 80 delicious pies for our Thanksgiving dinner

**Volunteers from Get Covered America who came in and signed up over 75 guests for Health Insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

**Arby's No Child Hungry Program for a \$2000 donation for equipment.

**Common Ground Food Coop who donated \$1271 through their Round Up for Good Program in June

**Carle Hospital Foundation who donated \$500 in October

**First Midwest Bank of Champaign/Danville for their \$500 donation

**Zarina Hock and the Indian Cultural Society for making their cookbook *Home Cooking of India* available on Amazon with all proceeds going to DBSK



Most of all we want to thank all of our volunteers who keep stirring the soup and all our supporters who keep sending in the checks that allow us to continue and expand our mission! This holiday season, as we begin the process of moving to a new home, we are reminded once again that 'dreams that you dare to dream really can come true,' particularly if you live in a generous community like Champaign-Urbana!

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Upcoming Events

Daily Bread friends, mark your calendars for the upcoming events! We at Daily Bread are very grateful to the groups and businesses who support our mission in so many different ways! For more info on these and other events, check our website dailybreadsoupkitchen.com

1. **C-U Sunrise Rotary** is having a **Fruit Sale** with proceeds going to Daily Bread. Boxes of oranges, grapefruits, or a mixture of both are available for \$25. Fruit will be delivered just in time for the holidays. Orders must be received by October 20th. Orders can be emailed to: RotaryFruit@gmail.com
2. **The C-U Storytelling Guild** and **the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Church** are holding a **Storytelling Concert** for DBSK on December 6 at 7:30 at the Church at 309 W. Green, Urbana. The suggested donation will be \$10.00. This is a storytelling concert featuring tellers from the CU Storytelling Guild including Dan Keding, Kim Sheahan, Camille Born, Sue Searing, Linda Dust, Judy Reynolds, Elaine Bearden and Kath Brinkmann. Suggested donation is \$10, and all proceeds will go to DBSK.
3. Plans are currently in the works for a **Trivia Night** Fundraiser at the **High Dive** in Urbana in January.
4. **Empty Bowls** has set April 1, 2015 as the date for their annual fundraiser at **Silvercreek Restaurant**. Guests will enjoy soup and bread and will get to choose a locally crafted bowl as well. Tickets will be \$20, and all proceeds will go to DBSK. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, please contact: steph@suttonsweb.com.
5. Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is now a **United Way agency**. Moneys donated can be designated to Daily Bread during the annual fall drive.