

Soup Scoop

Volume 29
March 2017

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 seven days a week at 116 N. First Street, Champaign. Lunches are served from 11:00-12:30.

“When life is good, throw your hands up and celebrate...”

Kool and the Gang had it right when they told us to “Celebrate good times, come on!” Here at Daily Bread we’ve been doing a lot of celebrating! Tuesday, December 20th was our big day, the day that we opened wide the doors of our brand new home, welcomed our guests, and served our first hot meal. (It was Taco Tuesday, so we launched our endeavor with both Hurrah’s and Ole’s!)

On hand for the 10:30 ribbon cutting was Ellen McDowell, DBSK’s founder, who wielded the scissors. She was accompanied by architect Gaylord Swisher, our treasurer Stevie Bennett, Champaign Mayor Deb Feinen, Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing, Jim Hires of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Rabbi Alan Cook of Sinai Temple, Father Robert Rayson of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Pastor Claude Shelby of Salem Baptist Church, and Champaign Deputy Police Chief Troy Daniels.

Surrounded by our guests and our volunteers, Ellen gave a heartfelt speech of thanks to everyone who had worked so hard to make this day possible. Guest Teresa shouted out what everyone was thinking-- “This wouldn’t have ever happened without Miss Ellen!” Then the volunteers sang our own version of Edelweiss that ended with a heartfelt “Bless our Soup Kitchen Forever...” And the ribbon was cut.



Our guests hurried into the new dining room, admiring the bright new space and searching for a cup of coffee and a place near the front of the serving line. Right at 11:00, Father Rayson and Pastor Shelby offered a lunchtime prayer, and then the first taco was dished out to the first guest in line.

Daily Bread was back serving our guests a hot lunch in our new home!

“When life is sweet, say thank you and celebrate...”

So many, many people to thank! First and foremost is Ellen McDowell, our guru, our moral compass, our inspiration. From the very beginning she has held fast to the idea of a permanent home for our soup kitchen. That she was the recent recipient of the YMCA’s Social Justice award seems only fitting for this 92 year young woman who has devoted her life to helping the less fortunate of our community. Many thanks go to Gaylord Swisher, an architect of unending patience, who listened carefully to the myriad of visions from our volunteers, who patiently brought those visions to life on paper, and who finally melded all those visions into one that everyone could agree on, the vision that lives today at 116 North First Street. And we were so fortunate in our contractors, Barber and DeAtley, who brought that vision to reality--amazingly, on budget and on schedule! Our beautiful new home is a tribute to their skill and professionalism.

And we’re just getting started with thanks! Many thanks go out to our dedicated fund raising committee (Stevie Bennett, Ruthann Evans, Ellen Harms, Karen Kane, and Karen Pickard) who raised enough money to pay off the contractors and let us begin our work in our new home debt-free. Obviously, special thanks must go to everyone, and there were thousands of you, who sent in checks specifically designated for the building fund! (And, by the way, although our building is paid off, our daily expenses continue, so please keep the checks coming!)

Henry Szujewski took on the difficult job of picking out and ordering all of our new equipment, much of which, we are grateful to announce, was donated by local individuals and organizations. We want to thank Champaign Rotary for our blast freezer, Ameren for the washer/dryer, and First United Methodist Church for a copier. Ann McDowell’s artistic skills created the warm and homey look of our new building. Attorney Jim Hagle kept us legal. Yvette Whitely took on the yeomen’s job of packing up our old kitchen and unpacking everything in the new one. Kate Metz organized our pantries, our freezers, and our refrigerators.

A special thanks goes to all our volunteers who helped in ways both small and huge: packing, lifting, moving, and cleaning, and continuing our mission through the entire moving time. We are very proud to say that, even though some days that meal was only a sack lunch, we never once missed a day feeding our guests through the entire months long moving process. It was an incredible team that made this move to a beautiful new facility a reality.

But every team needs a leader, an MVP. And we had one in Bob Goss, DBSK’s president and Ace at getting things done. Aply assisted by Pam Hagle, who Bob likes to describe as his ‘translator,’ Bob took on the thankless job of overseeing the project, making sure that all the i’s were dotted and t’s were crossed, making all the thousands of small decisions that had to be made in a project of this magnitude, answering the many, many phone calls, questions, etc. that continually arose. Bob worked so hard to make this dream of a new home for Daily Bread a reality that he almost worked himself to death! Bob should have been standing right next to Ellen McDowell at the ribbon cutting ceremony with his hand on those scissors along with hers. Instead he spent December 20th in the hospital! But he’s now recovered and back at DBSK with his hand firmly on the rudder as we sail into the future at our new home!



**“So bring your good times and your laughter too,
we gonna celebrate your party with you.”**

DBSK’s volunteers are loving our new home. We love the incredible, modern kitchen with all its space, its multi-burnered stoves. We love all the storage and the large freezer and refrigerator space. We love the fast efficient dishwasher. We love the space in the dining room. We love the big windows that let the sun shine in. We love our office space and large foyer that allows guests in out of the rain and snow. We love the piano in the foyer and the TVs on the walls and the convenient bathrooms. And we love, love, love the fact that we are finally able to serve our guests a hot meal seven days a week! But we are not the only ones loving the new facility at 116 North First Street. Our guests who join us everyday for lunch also love the new home that we all share. Here are some of their thoughts:



Lardell: It is better organized and the food is good. The soup is the best! I never got sick from eating the food. I like how they run their staff and Dan does a good job.



Fabian: The new place is beautiful, well organized. The big windows bring in lots of sunshine.



Esque: It's organized and you get time to eat.



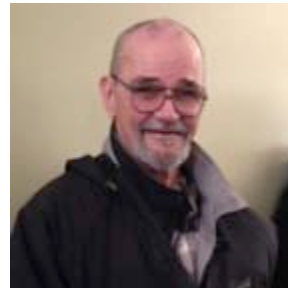
Robert: It's like eating in a nice restaurant every day.



Ramond: It's all good. You get a lot more food, and you don't have to walk as far to get here.



Joe: There is more room in the new location and it's easier to get here from the terminal.



Danny: It's great! The seating is better and the cafeteria is better. The bathrooms are huge and the front counter is able to deliver. The volunteers are great.



Jonathan: Extraordinary place, better than eating at the dorms on campus! I love all the space, the big windows, and the friendly volunteers.



Corey: More friendly and relaxed than before.



Big Will: The building is great and I like how people always serve with a smile.



Elaine: Everything is pretty good. It's nice and spacious with more room to eat. It's better organized and opened seven days a week.



Edward: It's clean with better food. It's a nice atmosphere and people around here don't fight. Better organized.

“Things you take for granted are things someone else is praying for. Celebrate generously.”



Even in the midst of all the craziness of moving, DBSK continued its long time tradition of giving out backpacks to our guests at Christmas. On Friday, December 16th, on what turned out to be one of the coldest days of this balmy 2016-17 winter, we opened the doors at New Covenant and handed out almost 800 very generously filled backpacks to guests, many of whom had been patiently standing in line in the cold for hours. The day was so brutally cold that our Santa (DBSK's own Dick Bennett, but, shhh, don't tell anyone!) filled up his sack with hats, gloves, socks, and scarves and passed them out

to people shivering in line.

We were thrilled with the number of backpacks we received this year from the CU community, and our guests were delighted with the backpacks filled to overflowing with warm winter apparel, gloves, hats, socks, toiletries, candy, etc. Every year we look out at the long line of people waiting for a backpack, look at all the backpacks we have piled up, and hope that there will be a backpack for every guest who wants one. And this year, just like every year, we didn't run out. But we did hand out the last of our backpacks just as we finally shut the door for the last time. Whew!

Many of our backpacks come filled by families, friend groups, businesses, etc., but we also receive donations of empty backpacks and items to fill those backpacks. This year we are very grateful to Weiskamp Printing for running a Christmas special that ended up with their delivering over 200 warm hooded sweatshirts for our guests. Karen Sheldon's Urbana Middle School class had a socks drive and collected over 1000 pairs of socks for our guests. We are very grateful to Bombas for their donation of 800 pairs of athletic socks. We are very grateful to JoAnn Cabutti and the knitters and crocheters who donated lots of lovely handmade scarves and hats.

We at DBSK are very grateful to everyone who donated backpacks or items that made Christmas a bit merrier for our guests. We had planned to publish a list of all donors in this newsletter, but we aren't for two reasons. Donations came in so fast and furious amidst the confusion of moving that we are well aware that our list is incomplete. And there were so many donations that to fit the list in the newsletter, we would have to use an 8 point font or smaller--and most of you wouldn't be able to read it anyway! So, instead, we will be publishing the list on our new website.

Please check out the list and the new website at www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com

The website is full of information about DBSK, including our history, volunteer information, information about upcoming events, a list of ways individuals and groups can help us with our mission of feeding the hungry of our community.



“So many, many things to celebrate...”

1. DBSK is honored to be this year’s Presence Covenant Medical Center’s Inspiration Award winner. The Award ‘recognizes inspirational leadership from an organization who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to advance the well-being of the community the hospital serves.’
2. On a cold December day an Uber driver stopped by our weekend crew as they were handing out sack lunches and soup from our mobile van and gave them the tips that he had received from riders.
3. We are so grateful to the Human Kinetics Foundation for their generous donation of \$25,000. The Foundation is supported by Rainer and Julie Martens. Rainer Martens founded Human Kinetics and sold it to his employees ten years ago. This donation will finance DBSK for almost two months!
4. Art Mart, Espresso Royale, and Panera donate desserts on a regular basis, to the delight of our guests with a sweet tooth.
5. Walgreens’ staff gave free flu shots to our guests.
6. Our guests enjoyed a wealth of oranges from the Central High School Band Sale that were purchased by donors specifically for Daily Bread.
7. Dan Spears and Dana Wealand were the winners of the donated Illini jackets that were raffled off on Taco Tuesdays.



8. Our guests are enjoying the piano donated by Helen Grandone, in honor of her mother. Our guests and volunteers have enjoyed playing.
9. Hams and turkeys have arrived from a variety of sources, including the Carle Neuroscience Institute, Carle Foundation, Fehr Graham Engineering, and from Joe Neil, aka ‘Low Rider,’ from Eagle Motorcycle Club.
10. At DBSK we celebrated Valentine’s Day by serving Black Dog Barbeque and handing out socks tied up in red ribbons. We celebrated Fat Tuesday by offering all our guests double desserts. We celebrated National Pi Day by serving our guests shepherds pie and a slice of pie for dessert, topped off with a big scoop of ice cream. And we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with ‘a wearing of the green.’



11. DBSK was delighted to receive \$4,809.93 from Common Ground’s Round Up For Good.

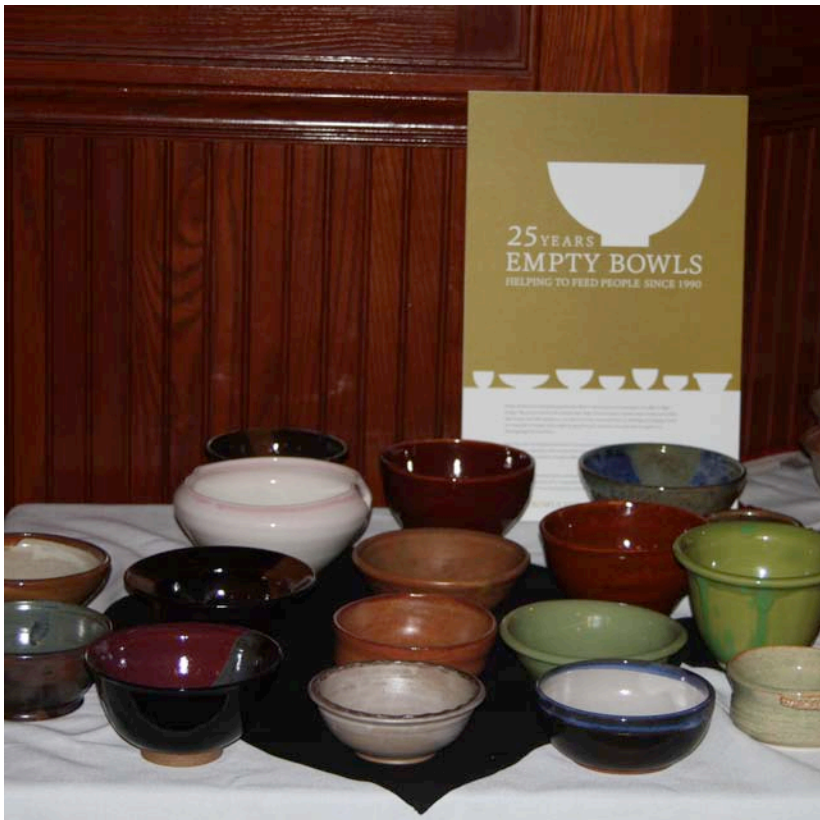
12. A Conscious House Concert held at the Yoga Center collected donations for DBSK.

13. A special thanks to nine-year-old Madelyn Phelps who asked her friends to donate to DBSK instead of giving her a birthday gift.

14. DBSK volunteers were happy to serve an egg casserole, home made biscuits, and coffee breakfast to the dedicated souls who spent the night outside for CU at Home’s annual ‘One Winter’s Night’ fundraiser.



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



Annual Empty Bowls Benefit and Raffle For DBSK

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

3:30-6pm

Silvercreek Restaurant

402 North Race, Urbana

**\$25 includes handcrafted bowl,
soup, and bread**

Please join us!

**(Help us keep the soup pots bubbling!
Any and all donations very gratefully
accepted at:**

**Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648
or www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com)**