

Soup Scoop

Volume 31
November 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, nutritious lunch seven days a week at 116 N. First Street, Champaign. Lunches are served from 11:00-12:30 P.M. to anyone who walks through our doors.

“Christmas is Not So Much About Opening Presents as Opening Our Hearts...”

A woman came into the Soup Kitchen recently, distraught because she had lost her shoes. It was a cool October day, and she was wearing only a thin pair of socks. She insisted that her shoes, a pair of pink Crocs, might be somewhere in the building, although she also thought that someone might have stolen her shoes. One of our volunteers quietly began talking to the woman and calmed the woman down. The volunteer then checked our lost and found box, and she even searched the bathroom with the woman. What happened next was heartwarming. The woman without shoes walked down the street proudly wearing a new pair of shoes and smiling broadly; the DBSK volunteer walked to her car--wearing only her socks! She was smiling too.



It's not only shoes that our volunteers give away. A guest once came into the soup kitchen and asked a volunteer for money. After the volunteer explained that it's against DBSK policy to give out money but that he could get a meal and a sack lunch, the frustrated guest lifted up his shirt and said, "See, I don't even have money for a belt." Without hesitation, the volunteer took off his belt and handed it to the guest.

As most of you know, only volunteers staff Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Our volunteers come to Daily Bread because of their dedication to our mission to feed the hungry of our community. It's a huge job to cook, serve and clean up a meal for over 200 guests, but our volunteers do this work cheerfully. They give every day of their time, their talents, their labor, and their hearts.

But keeping the soup kitchen running takes more than free labor and big hearts. It also takes cash to buy food, pay electric bills, pay for garbage pickup, etc. This holiday season we are asking you all to open your hearts once again and make a donation to Daily Bread. Most of us can relish the joys of the season because we have a roof over our head, food in our cupboards, and even a closet full of shoes and belts. But many of our guests are not so lucky. Christmas is tough for those without basic life necessities--or with little left over to make the day special. According to boxing sportswriter Jimmy Cannon, "Christmas is a holiday that persecutes the lonely, the frayed, and the rejected." Shoes and belts are not standard fare at Daily Bread, but we try our best to serve a delicious meal every day and to give our guests a bit of the joy of Christmas. Now we are asking for your help!

According to Mother Teresa, "It's Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Or your shoes. Or your belt. Or a check to keep the soup pots bubbling.

“Christmas is Doing a Little Something Extra For Someone.”
Charles Schulz

Although DBSK does have a policy about volunteers not giving money to our guests, and although our primary commitment is to our mission of feeding the hungry, we do in fact provide some extra services for the guests who eat at our tables. These extra services primarily are focused around two different areas, our Assistance Committee and our RAP (Referral Assistance Program) Office.

After a careful assessment of the biggest needs of our guests and an assessment of what needs are not being addressed by other agencies, our Assistance Committee decided to focus on three primary areas. The Assistance Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month and helps guests get State of Illinois ID's, copies of birth certificates, and annual C-U bus passes.



State ID's and birth certificates are necessary for applying for jobs or applying for various kinds of state and federal assistance. Guests recently released from prison come out with no IDs, drivers' licenses, etc, making it difficult to integrate back into society. Other guests may have lost paperwork, may not have needed IDs or birth certificates in the past, or may have moved from another state and need help dealing with Illinois requirements. Although the cost of ID's and birth certificates are relatively inexpensive, the task of obtaining the necessary documents to receive the paperwork is difficult for many of our guests. Our volunteers are available to help

guests deal with the red tape and also to pay the necessary fees. Derise was delighted to get a state ID that will enable her to apply for jobs and housing.

Bus passes enable a guest to have transportation for an entire year for the low cost of \$84. Mark was so excited to get his bus pass that he told a volunteer that he was going to get on the bus and go to Bloomington Road. When the volunteer asked him what he needed to do on Bloomington Road, he smiled and said, “Nothing! I'm just going because now I can!”



The RAP Office was formed when Ellen McDowell was



concerned about how difficult it was for our guests to get to all the different agencies scattered around the community (obviously before we started giving out bus passes). Thanks to an initial grant from Provena, we were able to open an office at our old home at New Covenant Fellowship where local agencies were invited in to see guests on site. Greg Hatch is the coordinator of the RAP Office, which now operates in our new building. Many of our guests without permanent addresses use the RAP office as a mailing address, and Greg gets to serve as our unofficial Postmaster.

Avicenna Community Health Center comes to DBSK twice a month and provides free blood pressure tests, free blood sugar tests, hands out information about free health care, and makes doctor's appointments for our guests.

Nurses from Walgreen's, including Phyllis, right, have been at DBSK twice this fall to give free flu shots to our guests.



Sandy, left, comes every Tuesday to provide our guests with information about SNAP/Link cards and Food Stamps. She can assist guests in registering for these programs--if her computer is working!



Our guests also can talk to representatives from Champaign County Health Care Consumers, C-U Tenant Union, the Salvation Army Supportive Services for Veteran Families, Smile Healthy, and other agencies. Greg is available for referrals to other local agencies, and he also is available as a friendly listening ear to troubled guests.

In addition, when we have a surplus of produce or bakery items, we give away our excess food to our guests.



And, in a more general way, at DBSK we give our

guests the opportunity to share their thoughts or talents with other guests and volunteers. Many of our guests enjoy sharing a prayer before we eat. We all enjoy listening to Betty's lovely voice as she sings a blessing.



“Of course there’s a Santa. But no single somebody can do all he does. So the Lord has given the task to all of us. That’s why everybody is Santa. I am. You are.” Truman Capote

It’s backpack time again at Daily Bread, and we hope that many of you take this opportunity to be Santa this year and provide a bit of Christmas to one of our guests. We will celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. The men and women we see daily are rarely remembered at Christmas. For many, these backpacks will be their only presents.

Backpacks will be given away on **Friday, December 15**, beginning at 10:00 am. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks. We're assuming that we will need that many or more 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 are especially appreciated. Other items could include hand warmers, cough drops, books, decks of cards, small fleece blankets, candy, gum, and food items. Since the backpacks are a Christmas gift, all items should be new. All backpacks should be new or nearly new as well.



In the past we have found used clothes in packs, which we donate to Goodwill. Once we even found a bowling ball in a bowling bag that looked like a backpack! Fortunately we were suspicious of the weight of the pack, so we were able to return the bag to its owner before a surprised guest was the unhappy recipient of a bowling ball rather than some warm socks!

All backpacks should be labeled with the gender and size of the 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. We will NOT be giving out children’s backpacks this year.

Filled backpacks can be dropped off beginning Friday, **Dec. 1**. Backpacks can be dropped off at Daily Bread, 116 N. First Street, Champaign during the week from 9-12 P.M. We would encourage you to use the back door on the alley when dropping off backpacks.

Backpacks can also be dropped off at Ellen Harms’ (705 S. Elm Blvd. 356-2551) at Pam Hagle’s (713 S. Elm Blvd. 359-3245) or at Ruthann Evans’ (4414 Crossgate Dr. 398-5687). Tax forms will be available.

We are also happy to accept empty backpacks and also items to fill backpacks.

Filling one or more backpacks can be a wonderful holiday project for a family, for grandparents, for a scout troop, for a social club, for a tennis group, for neighborhood friends, for book clubs, etc.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Ellen at 356-2551 or ellenharms@aol.com

Other Ways You Can Help

1. Shop at Savoy Schnucks in December and buy a 'HUNGER' Bag for \$1.00. DBSK will receive a one-dollar donation for each bag sold--and you will also be helping the environment.
2. Shop Common Ground in January and 'Round-up' your payment. DBSK will get the extra change.

“The Spirit of Christmas is Found When We Lift the Load of Others...”



1. Hearty congrats to Anne Zolt, recent recipient of a RSVP service award! According to Lynn Hall, DBSK's volunteer coordinator, "91 year old Anne outdoes many of our younger volunteers. She shows up at 8 and never leaves until the last table is washed. And she is always smiling!"

2. Thanks to Holy Cross students for arriving weekly with fruit and milk--and for happily lifting chairs off our tables.

3. Plans are in the works for the 2018 Empty Bowls benefit for Daily Bread in April. If you would like to be a sponsor of the event, contact Stephanie Sutton at steph@suttonsweb.com.

4. The U of I's women's golf team came by to make and hand out sandwiches.

5. Priya, Noreen,

Noor, Annalise, Elliot, Olivia, Sophia, and Headley, members of Girls on the Run at Countryside School, held a bake sale and donated almost \$300 to DBSK.

6. We are always happy when the truck from Canaan Baptist Church pulls up with gallons of milk.

7. We were happily overflowing with fresh produce this summer. Veggies from the Master Gardeners' garden, fresh tomatoes from Mike Dieterding and Bernie Hammel ("The combine broke down so I decided to pick some tomatoes and bring them to you"), veggies from Rick Larimore, tomatoes from Darlene Kleoppel, Terri King, and many, many others.

8. Todd from Sola Gratia brought a truckload--yup, a truckload, of produce. The Thursday crew cooked up a case of collard greens with onions and pork belly! Yum!



9. For years volunteers Stevie and Dick Bennett have walked home from church, stopping for a bowl of chili at the Potbelly's on campus. In September they were honored by the restaurant with a portion of the evening's proceeds going to Daily Bread. And in their honor Potbelly's will now donate a portion of the proceeds on the second Friday of every month! So, all, head down to Potbelly's!

10. From Philip, in an email to Eastern Illinois Food bank: *"I just want to give recognition to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, located on 116 N. First Street, in Champaign, Illinois. They serve a delicious hot meal to the public for free, 7 days a week, plus provide sack lunches, fresh fruit/vegetables, and baked goods. They also provide resource services for anyone in need. I am homeless, but I am*

never hungry, thanks to the Soup Kitchen! And they also allow their address to be used as a mailing address for those who need one, like myself."

11. One final thing--a man came up to a volunteer, handed her a \$20 bill, and told her that he was from Canada, had gotten off the bus at the bus station and was waiting for another bus, so he decided to go for a walk. He noticed the long line outside the soup kitchen (our line briefly stretched out to and part way up the alley that day!), so he came in, ate a meal which he said was delicious, and decided he wanted to pay for his meal. He was delighted when she told him that his donation would pay for 40 meals!

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

***How Daily Bread is Like a
Christmas Tree:***

- 1. We're a light in some people's darkness.**
- 2. We bring joy to others.**
- 3. We have our own star (Ellen McDowell)
on top of our tree.**
- 4. We sparkle and twinkle as often as possible.**
- 5. But sometimes we're a little tilted.**
- 6. We fill the room with a delightful aroma!**
- 7. Our guests, like ornaments,
are all beautiful in their own way.**
- 8. As are our volunteers.**
- 9. And our donors shine brightly.**
- 10. Together we create a thing of beauty.**



**Help us keep the soup pots bubbling!
Any and all cash donations very gratefully accepted at:
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL 61824-0648
or www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com**