

Soup Scoop

Volume 32
March 2018

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.

**“The more I give thanks, the more I realize
Just how much there is to be thankful for...”**

We’ve all been told that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, at DBSK we know that it takes a community, a large and loving community, to build and support a soup kitchen. Every day at Daily Bread we thank our lucky stars for the many, many people and organizations who support our mission of feeding the hungry of our community. We’d like to think of this newsletter today as a thank-you note to everyone--volunteers, supporters, donors—who have contributed so much and in so many different ways to Daily Bread.

Thanks for making the annual Backpack Giveaway a success.

Although our new location has provided us with a huge increase in space for seating guests, for cooking, and for storage, we didn’t plan ahead during the renovation for the storage and giveaway of 900 backpacks. So we were concerned when October rolled around and we began talking seriously about how we would handle the annual Backpack Giveaway. But, as has happened so often, almost before we realized that we had a problem, we had a solution! Mike Hosier, the owner of the building next door that was for rent, offered us the use of the building for the holidays! Thank You, Mike!!

The building quickly filled up with generously filled backpacks as well as empty backpacks and items to fill those backpacks. And so, on a cold, cold December 15th, we moved all the backpacks to our new building, and the next day, in just two hours, we handed out over 750 backpacks and a sack lunch to guests who waited patiently in line outside in the cold.

We want to thank all the individuals, all the scout groups and



book clubs and medical units and neighbors and school classrooms and grandparents and so many others who made filling a backpack part of their Christmas celebration this year. We wish that all of you could see the big smiles on the faces of our guests when they received their backpacks.



Some Backpack Stories



At her family's 2016 Thanksgiving celebration Pam Hagle's sister Jill told her that she was impossible to buy a present for. So, she told Pam, for Christmas 2017 I'm going to knit you 100 scarves for the DBSK backpacks! This Thanksgiving, she showed up with a box of beautiful, multi-colored scarves, 89 of them to be exact. She tried very hard to reach the magic number of 100 but just ran out of time.

Bambas Socks was founded in 2013 by Randy Goldberg and David Heath who launched the company after seeing a Facebook post that mentioned the need for socks at homeless shelters. They adopted a one-for-one business model where the company would donate one pair of socks for each one purchased. As of now they have sold and given away 7,000,000 pairs of socks, including 2,000 pairs to Daily Bread Soup Kitchen!! We were able to stuff extra socks into all our backpacks.

A young woman approached a volunteer recently and modeled the jacket that was in her backpack. She loved it! It was a beautiful gray color, fit her perfectly, and had a tag on it that said \$65. And it even had a matching hat, scarf, and gloves. She was delighted that someone would be so generous. And she felt like a million dollars.

Another guest proudly showed off the fleece-lined hoodie that was in his backpack. I'm taking good care of it, he told a volunteer. I wear it every day.

Weiskamp Printing and their customers again this year donated over 500 heavy sweatshirts, sweatshirts that we see our guests wearing every day.



Thanks for Helping Us Celebrate Holidays



A group of girls from Zeta Phi Beta made placemats for Veterans Day.

We celebrated Thanksgiving a day early since Thanksgiving is one of the three days each year that we close our doors. We were very grateful to Chef Marcus from Hilton Garden Inn who cooked our turkeys for us, brought them in hot, and stayed to serve them. Thanks to Carle and the Carle Brain and Spine Institute for donating turkeys. Thanks to Piatto Catering for the sides and Texas Road House for the rolls. Holy Cross 4th graders made Thanksgiving placemats, Urbana Middle School

students made centerpieces for the tables, and St Matthew second graders decorated lunch bags for our guests. A joyous day for all!



Christmas was celebrated in a variety of ways beside backpack giveaways. The Twin City Garden Club brought in Christmas trees and other decorations and made DBSK festive. Jim Harms brought in his camera, posed willing guests in front of the trees, and took pictures. The next day we gave guests two copies of their picture and let them choose stamped Christmas cards to send to loved ones. And the week before Christmas, the Wednesday crew played Christmas music for our guests and served them an amazing meal of standing rib roast!

We were closed on New Years' Day which turned out to be the COLDEST day of the winter. With the library closed as well as most other facilities and with no bus service, many of our guests took shelter at the Phoenix, CUatHome's drop in center, which provided warmth and shelter but no food—until some of our volunteers packed up sack lunches and dropped them off.

Holy Cross students celebrated the 'Souper Bowl' with a collection of canned soups and broths, which they shared with us and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

Once again the Tuesday crew celebrated Fat Tuesday by wearing purple and by giving all of our guests TWO desserts.

The Wednesday crew celebrated Valentine's Day by offering pink and white cookies and cupcakes and by handing out Bambas socks tied with red ribbons by students at St. Matthew School.

Thanks for Providing Healthy Foods for Our Guests



Guests come to Daily Bread for a variety of reasons. Some come because they literally have nowhere to go and nothing to eat. Some come to stretch their paychecks. Some come for companionship. We have one guest, a lovely woman with two young children, who says she comes so that she can give her children fresh fruits and vegetables, items that are difficult for her to afford on a food stamp budget. Thanks to a variety of sources, most days she's in luck. We have volunteers who go to the foodbank every day, and it's a rare day that they don't bring back fresh fruit, especially apples and bananas. We also have volunteers

who go to Gordon Food Service several times a week, and they also frequently bring back fresh produce. So, every day we are able to serve our guests a fresh garden salad and often we have a fruit salad to offer, as well as pieces of fruit to take home. But we also get fresh produce from other sources.



Champaign Central Band had a fruit sale in December and offered customers the option of buying a box of fruit for the soup kitchen. We were thrilled, as were our guests, when Band Booster parents arrived with a huge number of delicious oranges. We also received oranges and grapefruit from the Champaign Sunrise Rotary fruit sale.

Our guests were delighted when Edible Arrangements donated fresh cut pineapple and chocolate covered strawberries, fruit and dessert in one bite!

Another treat arrived in January when the Harry and David's Store at the Tuscola Outlet Mall offered us almost 50 boxes of pears. That added up to 450 delicious, juicy pears, a real treat.

Thanks to the Young People Who Support Daily Bread

When we were located at New Covenant, classrooms of Holy Cross students would walk over every week and bring us donations of milk and fresh fruit. We were sad to think that we wouldn't be seeing our friendly students when we moved, but they ended up moving with us! Once a week a caravan of students and parents show up with their donations, their smiles, and their muscles. (We love it when they take all the chairs down off the tables for us.) Holy Cross students also collected lots of items for the backpack giveaway, so many items that it took TWO SUV's filled to the rooftop to carry everything back to DBSK.



Nine year old Gloriana created 75 'blessing bags' filled with toiletries that she handed out to our guests. Fifteen year old Devin donated the \$15 check he got for his birthday to DBSK. Charlotte, a first grader at Wiley School in Urbana, learned about hunger in her classroom and decided to have her own food drive. We were so thankful when she arrived with canned goods and boxes of mac and cheese. Cub Scout Troop 199 from

Robeson School was inspired by a talk from DBSK's own Karen Pickard and collected canned goods and \$154, which will feed 308 guests.



Thanks to the Individuals and Groups that Support Us Financially



Although this is a thank-you note and not a fund-raising plea, we would be remiss if we didn't thank everyone and every group who send in the checks that keep us going. In particular we would like to thank Common Ground Round-Up (pix, left), Crop Walk, Champaign Rotary West's CU's Got Talent, Beat the Winter Blues Benefit, and Schnucks Reusable Bags Sale for raising funds for DBSK.

Thanks for Food Donations!

To successfully feed over 200 guests every day, we need an endless supply of food! This is just a partial list of all the places that have donated food recently. We are so grateful to Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Gordon Food Service, El Toro Restaurant, Arbys, Ribyeye Steak House, Piato Catering, Forrest/Fairbury friends, Hendrick House on campus, Espresso Royale at the Crossing, Panera on Kirby, Columbia Street Roastery, Urbana Middle School, Fit 4 Mom, Rantoul Elks food drive, Suzanne Roderick and the Cake Artists, Kiwanis Peanuts, Michaels Catering, Quakers, Illinois Good Sam's RV Club, Faith United Methodist Church, Chuck Avery (100 pounds of ground meat!), Barber and DeAtley, Eagles Motorcycle Club, Papa Dels Pizza, Urbana Country Dancers, Pepperidge Farms, Schnucks, County Market, Illini Food Service, Brix Pizza, and all the individuals who ring our back doorbell and drop off items.

Thanks for Doing a Bit Extra!



It's always fun at DBSK when we are able to make the meal special. Our guests were delighted in December when CU's own Candy Foster came in and entertained everyone over the lunch hour. Friday guests were delighted when a band comprised of Dr. Clarence Walker, Kurtis



Decker, and Josh Walker played during the lunch hour. And Friday got another treat when Bill Poss played guitar another day.

Thursday cook Yvette coordinated an early morning breakfast at DBSK for all the hardy souls who slept outside during the One Winter Night Fundraiser for CUatHome. Volunteers were treated to a hot meal with lots of coffee, egg casserole, fruit, homemade biscuits—and Yvette's own homemade coffee cake!

We were thrilled when Black Dog's Smoke and Ale House smoked briskets and turkeys for us. Our guests were beyond delighted with the results.



And a Couple More Things...

1. We are currently experiencing a shortage of meat since the Foodbank, our main meat source, is no longer receiving large meat donations. If you have any suggestions as to other meat sources, especially places where we could buy meat at wholesale prices, please contact Susan at cuhinesly@comcast.net. Raising chickens doesn't seem to be an option, and switching to tofu on a daily basis probably wouldn't go over well with our guests.
2. Several people have notified us that their tax form didn't match their donation amount. We've traced this to a glitch in our computer bookkeeping system. If you've noticed a problem, please contact Treasurer Stevie Bennett at Katie983@aol.com.
3. Finally, a giant THANK YOU to our 100% volunteer force who take all that donated food, all those generous donations, and all the loyal community support and wrap it up into a Daily Bread Soup Kitchen experience for our guests 7 days a week, 362 days a year!

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



Annual CU Empty Bowls Benefit for Daily Bread

**April 11, 2018, 3:30-6:00 pm
Silvercreek Restaurant
402 N. Race, Urbana
\$25 includes a handcrafted bowl
plus soup and bread.
Please join us!**

**Help us keep our soup pot bubbling!
Cash donations always very gratefully accepted
at:**

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