

# Soup Scoop

Volume 37  
November 2019

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*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 nutritious lunch seven days a week at 116 N. First Street, Champaign. Lunches are served from 11:00 to 12:30 pm to anyone who walks through our doors.

**“It is Christmas Every Time You Smile at Your Brother and Offer Him Your Hand.”  
Mother Teresa**

*A Daily Bread guest to a Volunteer: “I like your jacket.”*

*The Volunteer’s reply: “I like your smile.”*

*Guest to Volunteer: “I always smile when I’m here. This is my favorite place to be.”*

It’s the holiday season again in Champaign-Urbana, and as we celebrate, we are reminded once again that what is a joyous time for many is not so joyful for the guests we see every day at Daily Bread. For many of our guests, there’s not a lot to smile about at Christmas. Christmas trees don’t sparkle and glow if you are sleeping under a viaduct or on a friend’s couch. Turkey and cranberry sauce don’t mean anything if you don’t have a stove or a refrigerator. It’s hard to buy gifts for loved ones if your pockets are empty. Happy families laughing around a table are just a mirage if your family is estranged or far away.

We can’t change the realities or the difficulties of the lives of many of our daily guests, but every day we do what we can to make Daily Bread a happy place. Every day we greet old friends and our new guests with wide welcome smiles. Every day we serve our guests a hot, nutritious, delicious meal, and every day we offer a sack lunch for an evening meal. We are often able to offer guests fresh fruit, veggies, and breads to take home. Our Assistance Committee is available to help guests with state ID’s, driver’s licenses, and bus passes, as well as other items of need.

In December we ‘deck our halls’ with holly and Christmas trees. We play Christmas music, and we serve decorated cookies for dessert. We pass out stamped Christmas cards for guests to send and take pictures of guests in front of our Christmas trees for them to include in their cards. We hand out backpacks lovingly filled with all the items that guests need to get through a bitter winter. We serve a Christmas Eve lunch with turkey and dressing and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie and all the trimmings!



And sometimes Santa visits!! Lots of smiles when Santa comes to Daily Bread!

## “Christmas Is not So Much About Opening Presents as Opening Our Hearts...”

To paraphrase an old saying, “It takes a community to support a soup kitchen.” And we are lucky enough to live in a community filled with people with very big open hearts! 2019 has been a busy year for Daily Bread as we endeavor to fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry of our community. The number of meals we’ve served has increased. Many days this summer the line of guests waiting to be served stretched to the door. Most days we serve well over 200 plates; many days we serve over 250 plates. We’ve bought new children’s plates for all the little ones who come for a meal.

The quality of the meals that we’ve served has gotten better and better, thanks to the quality and quantity of food donated by our local community. (On a recent Tuesday, we served pork chops donated by farmer friends from Forrest and Fairbury to one hundred guests, and the rest of our guests enjoyed beef brisket and prime rib donated by the University of Illinois Foundation, as well as the most incredible chocolate cake imaginable! An amazing meal, all donated. But it’s not always pork chops and prime rib; the following Tuesday our guests enjoyed sloppy Joes.) All of our guests have benefitted from the bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables donated by local farmers and gardeners, as well as local grocers, the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, and Gordon Food Service. Our desserts donated by Panera, Harvest Market, Espresso Royale, the foodbank, etc., are as delicious as that above-mentioned chocolate cake.

The number of guests we’ve been able to help through our Assistance Program has also increased. For the first nine months of 2019 we’ve helped 138 guests get state ID’s. We’ve helped 114 guests get birth certificates. We’ve provided bus passes for 118 guests. And we’ve provided emergency assistance for 197 guests.

And, as we mentioned in the last newsletter, we’ve been looking into buying the building next door. Well, we are delighted to tell you that we are now officially a two-building organization, thanks to a generous supporter. The new building will provide needed storage, needed administrative space, and room for all the backpacks that we hope will soon be forthcoming!

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of those of you reading this newsletter today. As most of you know, as we’ve noted many times, Daily Bread gets no state or federal funding. We are entirely funded by individual donations and local grants. Because we are also entirely volunteer staffed with no paid salaries, all donations go directly to guest services.

We are extremely grateful for all the individual checks that arrive and for all the support, prayers, and best wishes that accompany those checks.

We are also grateful for the local organizations and groups that have supported our mission in 2019.

### Common Ground and Round Up for Good

Every month Common Ground picks a different local charity and asks customers to ‘round up’ their purchases to the nearest dollar. The collected change then is totaled up and given to the monthly recipient. Daily Bread was delighted to be chosen as Common Ground’s January Charity. We were even more delighted to accept a check for \$3711.78. Jeff and the Saturday crew took a minute out from lunch preparations to smile with the big check.



## Rotary West and CU's Got Talent



This is the third year that Rotary West has put on a fundraiser highlighting local talent and the third year that Daily Bread has been one of the recipients of the fundraiser. Every year we have been impressed with the quality of the talent in our community and the very entertaining show that Rotary West organizes. But Daily Bread volunteers have their own talents. Our cooks are very talented at creating tasty nutritious meals for the hungry of our community. It's thanks to organizations like Rotary West and their generous check that our freezer stays stocked and our cupboards full so that our cooks are able to create those meals. Karen was delighted to accept the check from Rotary West President Cathy Rector.

## Champaign Urbana Empty Bowls

CU Empty Bowls celebrated their 10th anniversary sponsoring this annual fundraiser held at Silvercreek Restaurant (Thanks, owner Allan Strong for donating the locale and the soup!) and once again donated all \$11,000 of the proceeds to Daily Bread. Guests at the benefit get to choose a hand-crafted bowl (Thanks, local potters who donate the bowls!) enjoy a bowl of soup, and help Daily Bread feed the hungry of our community. Special thanks to this year's guest artist Roger Kirkwood, who has donated hundreds of bowls over the last ten years. (Planning has already begun for Empty Bowls 2020. Mark your calendar for April 15, 2020.)



## Community Foundation's Young Philanthropist's Circle of Giving



Besides serving our guests a hot meal, we also hand out sack lunches, both as a dinner meal for guests who are eating with us to take home and also as a lunch for guests who don't have time to stand in line. Because cheese, meat, and bread are actually items that are rarely donated, these sack lunches are one of our biggest food expenses. The Aspiring Philanthropists Giving Circle, a group recently established by the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, chose Daily Bread as one of its initial grant recipients. Daily Bread was delighted to receive \$1,000 for the purchase of protein for our sack lunches, and Ruth was happy to accept the check from Community Foundation CEO Joan Dixon.

## The Bayer Fund Priority Area of Giving Grant



We were thrilled to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Bayer Fund to also purchase protein: lunchmeat, cheese, and peanut butter for sack lunches. We give out between 250-300 sack lunches every day, (which, if you do the math, comes out to around 100,000 sack lunches every year). Obviously, the Bayer Grant and the Young Philanthropists Grant will significantly help defray the costs of the sandwiches—and even will allow us to occasionally serve our guests ham or turkey rather than the bologna that we usually serve!

## The United Way of Champaign County



**United Way of  
Champaign County**

identification cards, and yearly bus passes. These are all essential components for our guests to seek and obtain employment in the community.

The United Way of Champaign County awarded Daily Bread \$10,000 to assist our guests in their quest for employment by paying for copies of their birth certificates, State of Illinois



## Champaign Rotary and The Joseph H Cannon Memorial Grant

Champaign Rotary has been incredibly generous to Daily Bread in the past, so we were a bit reluctant to apply for another grant. But our 15 year-old mini-van, donated by the late Dick Joy in honor of his late wife Diane Joy, was becoming less and less reliable as we used it daily to pick up food donations from local grocery stores and restaurants, the University of Illinois, Gordon Food Service, and Eastern Illinois Food Bank. We were beyond thrilled when we were awarded \$15,000 to purchase a van! Lou and Charlie are quite happy to show off our new wheels!

## First Presbyterian Church of Urbana

First Presbyterian Church hosted a Souper Bowl charity drive and donated \$341 to Daily Bread. Kari and Dave from the Sunday crew were happy to accept their check.



We don't have pictures, but there are others we want to acknowledge. Daily Bread received a very generous donation from the **Meyer Foundation**. **University High School Student Council** raised \$844.50 and chose Daily Bread as this year's recipient. **St. Thomas More** held their own Empty Bowls event and donated the results to Daily Bread, as did **Champaign Central High School's Art Program**. **C-U Marathon** donated \$2,365 as well as lots of left-over bananas, granola bars, and pasta! Other generous donors include **Fertilizer Dealer Supply, Inc.**, **St. Boniface Catholic Church**, **State Farm Charitable**, **American Water**, **Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church**, **Church World Service, Inc.**, **St. John Lutheran Church Benevolence Fund**, **First United Methodist Church**, **First Baptist Church of Savoy**, **Hickory Point Bank**, and **The Windsor of Savoy**.

And, we especially want to thank **Walgreen's** for providing free flu shots to our guests!

### **"Christmas is Doing A Little Something Extra for Someone..." Charles Schulz**

For the eleventh year in a row it's **Backpack Time** at Daily Bread. We will again celebrate the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are our guests at lunch. For many, these backpacks will be their only presents. There are always lots of smiles on Backpack Day.

Backpacks will be given away on **Friday, Dec. 13** beginning at 10:00 am. Last year we gave away over 800 backpacks in two hours. 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, and food items. Because these packs will be a special gift for our guests, we are asking that all items be **NEW**. Because of space limitations we can't accept donations of used clothing.

All backpacks should be labeled with the gender and size of recipients (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. We do NOT give out children's backpacks.

Filled backpacks can be dropped off beginning the week of **Monday, Dec. 2** at Daily Bread, 116 N. First St., Champaign, from 9-1. Please use the back door 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). Please make sure that you leave your name when you drop off backpacks. Tax forms will be available at drop-off sites.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who participates in this annual project and brings some of the joy and magic of the season to our guests at the soup kitchen.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Ellen at 356-2551 or [ellenharms@aol.com](mailto:ellenharms@aol.com).

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Inc.  
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Champaign, IL 61824-0648



## Betty Blesses us at Daily Bread with her Gift of Song

Cash donations always gratefully accepted  
at:

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen  
P.O. Box 648 Champaign, IL  
61824-0648 or [dailybreadsoupkitchen.com](http://dailybreadsoupkitchen.com)

After you read this Soup Scoop, please share it with a friend who may not know about Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Thank you!