



BREAD & BROTH

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

A Note from our Director...

As the saying goes, "at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel" thanks to the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. Although it will be months before life will begin to return to "normal", at least everyone will have access to the vaccine, and hopefully, we can begin to come out on the other side of the pandemic.

It has been a long year for Bread & Broth, but it has also been a good one. I am so proud of what Bread & Broth has accomplished in the past 12 months. Thanks to our many volunteers and our generous donors, we've helped so many of our neighbors fend off hunger and save what funds they had to cover other necessary expenses like rent, mortgages, and utilities. As you can see from the COVID-19 stats in the accompanying article, Bread & Broth has given out a tremendous amount of food.

Since no one can really know how long the financial impact of the coronavirus will have on individuals and families and how soon a safe majority of the public will be vaccinated, it will probably be some time before Bread & Broth resumes our normal hot meal service and gets back to the weekly B&B 4 Kids program packing and bag delivery to schools.

I know many of you have expressed an interest in returning to volunteering for our Monday Meal, Second Serving, and Kids' programs. We are also looking forward to getting back to "normal" and having you back with us. Be assured that we will be communicating with you as we transition back to our pre-COVID programs.

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming Spring season.

Sincerely,
Carol Gerard, Director



Monday, 3/15/21 Monday Meal Food Giveaway Team celebrates the one year anniversary of easing hunger during the pandemic.

Our Services Continue....

Bread & Broth observed a year of altering our services to meet the needs of a community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of Monday and Friday hot meals, bags filled with nutritious food are bagged and handed out to our clients at Grace Hall on Mondays and Fridays. The B&B 4 Kids program has adapted to the many changing LTUSD school schedules by serving the students via bus route stops, distributing bags at school sites, and handing out bags from Grace Hall on Thursdays. In addition, B&B 4 Kids is now providing bags to seven child care centers that serve low-income families.

Since March of 2020, Bread & Broth has spent an average of \$6,100 per week to purchase meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products and basic staples such as protein bars, soups, canned meat, nuts and cereal. Fresh fruit and kid-friendly, protein-enriched food have been purchased for the B&B 4 Kids program. As the number of clients has increased and the quantity and quality of food has increased, weekly expenditures have climbed to over \$7,800 over the past three months.

As of March 15, 2021, expenditures for Bread & Broth have totaled \$312,000 and donations, grants via businesses, organizations, and individuals have totaled \$388,00.

Over the past 12 months, Bread & Broth has handed out 11,337 sets of bags (that's over 57,000 bags of food!) or an average of 220 bag sets (or 1,100 bags) at the weekly Monday/Friday events. The Kids' program has given out an average of 360 bags per week over the past 52 weeks. Between the two programs, Bread & Broth is touching the lives of over 1,090 men, women and children in our community on a weekly basis.



Knowing More About Bread & Broth... Pieces of the Puzzle

The People Behind the Scenes.....

During the pandemic, B&B 4 Kids has distributed over 350 bags to school age children and pre-schoolers attending day care centers serving low income families each week. This distribution requires buying the food, packing the bags, and handing out the bags at LTUSD school bus locations and child care centers.

During the last year, the responsibility of purchasing, stocking and packing bags for the B&B 4 Kids Program has been performed or led by **Cheryl Breitwieser**. Each week, Cheryl spends countless hours scouring websites and local grocery stores looking for nutritious, protein-enriched foods that are also kid-friendly. Cheryl often has to single-handedly arrange for these deliveries and get the food ready for packing.



Every two/three weeks, Cheryl leads a volunteer packing team of 10-14 volunteers to pack an average of 800 bags to meet the needs of the children in our community. Currently, these bags are then taken to the buses/ child care centers each Friday and are also distributed out of Grace Hall on Thursday evenings to children who do not have access to the bus locations or the child care centers. Beginning this week, these bags will be delivered to school sites.

Cheryl has been activity involved in B&B 4 Kids for the last six years after seeing an article about Bread & Broth in the local newspaper. After volunteering just once, she was recruited to be one of the team leads for the Kids' program.

Cheryl moved to the South Lake Tahoe area from Colorado. There she headed up an organization called "Calling All Angels" which provided food, clothing, and shelter to the homeless, the Veteran's Administration, children's hospitals and women's shelters throughout South Denver.

In her spare time, Cheryl is a crafter. She makes designer quilts; two of her quilts are displayed at the Colorado State Capital and at the VA's Main Office in Colorado.



Thank you to Cheryl and her incredible packing team for all of their hard work!!

thank you!

Barton Foundation Community Support

Bread & Broth has many supportive partnerships in our efforts to ease hunger, and during the pandemic, one of the most generous has been the Barton Foundation. During the warmer months of August, September and October, Barton's Attic workers would come every Monday and Friday to B&B's food giveaway events and bring a truckload of household items, clothing, toys, books and other miscellaneous items to give away free to our clients.

As the weather cooled, Barton Foundation began to provide B&B with \$20 Attic vouchers to put in the food bags that were handed out at the Monday and Friday events.

Then starting in February, B&B was one of the organizations selected by Barton Foundation to distribute \$25 Safeway Gift Cards as our clients picked up their bags of food. On a weekly basis, B&B receives 100 or \$2,500 worth of these gift cards. All of these generous offerings of help from the Barton Foundation are truly appreciated by our clients and are a wonderful supplement to the food that B&B provides.

Kudos to Barton Foundation!

