



# BREAD & BROTH

## Volunteer Newsletter

### A Note from our Director....

2020 was definitely a challenging year but thanks to the generosity of our donors and active volunteers, Bread & Broth has had much to be thankful for. Since mid-March, Bread & Broth has touched the lives of an average of 1,090 local needy men, women, and children weekly. In addition to food donated by local stores and businesses and the El Dorado Food Bank, B&B has spent over \$220,000 on dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables, meats, and other nutritional staples to distribute thrice weekly. We hosted both a Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway and a Christmas Meal Giveaway to help our neighbors have a bright spot in their holidays. Thankfully, Bread & Broth's mission to ease hunger has continued successfully.

There is so much to look forward to in 2021. Gatherings with friends and loved ones, resuming our pre-COVID 19 daily lives, traveling, and all of the many activities that we have had to put aside to stay safe during the pandemic. Bread & Broth will continue our COVID-19 Emergency Food Giveaway program to those who are food insecure until it is deemed safe to resume our pre-coronavirus food service.

In these final months of the pandemic, my wish is for your continued good health and safety. I am very much looking forward to when, as Bread & Broth volunteers, we can come together again to feed those in need.

Happy New Year to each of you!

Carol Gerard, Director  
Bread & Broth



### Bread & Broth Thanksgiving and Christmas Giveaway Meals - A Huge Success

On Monday, November 23rd, Bread & Broth hosted its first Holiday/ Thanksgiving Food Giveaway. This event replaced the traditional holiday meal that B&B normally provides for the community.

In addition to the normal 4-5 bags (8-10 bags for families of five or more) of food provided each Monday, clients were given an extra bag of Thanksgiving "fixins" including a turkey breast, stuffing, green beans, rolls, cranberry sauce, cider and pumpkin or apple pie. Safeway, Raley's at Stateline and Smart & Final provided several of these items.

Over 170 Thanksgiving bags were given out to families reaching over 500 individuals, several of who commented that Thanksgiving would not be possible without these provisions.

The generosity of volunteers and the South Lake Tahoe community was once again evident in our efforts to support those facing food insecurity in our community. Over \$17,000 was donated by individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the area to support B&B's holiday efforts. Over 25 volunteers assisted with packing up, packing, and distributing food to make this event a possibility.

Funding that remained from the Thanksgiving giveaway was used to host a Christmas Meal Giveaway on Monday, December 21st. In addition to the basic giveaway, the Christmas meal included a ham, pineapples, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole ingredients, sparkling cider, and cookies and candy donated by Raley's at Stateline, Smart & Final, Safeway and Edgewood Tahoe.

Once again, over 170 sets of bags were distributed, touching the lives of 520 individuals who would benefit from this holiday meal. As a special holiday touch, the giveaway bags contained a \$20 Attic Thrift Store voucher from Barton Hospital to help purchase gifts or necessities.



### Congratulations to Bread & Broth and Our Director

In late October, Bread & Broth was voted the Tahoe Daily Tribune's "Best of Tahoe- Best Local Charity" award. Over 130,000 votes were cast in the contest, and it truly was an honor for Bread & Broth to receive this award for the second year in the row. Thank you to all of the volunteers, donors, and those in the community who support Bread & Broth and make Tahoe what it is, especially during this very difficult year.



In addition, Bread & Broth was honored by the Tahoe Chamber with Honorable Mentions for both the organization and Carol Gerard, our B&B director.

The Blue Ribbon Awards were created in 2007 to honor excellence in business and local organizations in the South Shore. It is one of the largest awards program in South Lake Tahoe, bringing together over 300 local business leaders, entrepreneurs, organizations, community members and government officials.

Bread & Broth received Honorable Mention for the "Community Enrichment Award". Carol Gerard, our Bread & Broth director, was awarded Honorable Mention for the "Volunteer of the Year" award. This is the first year these particular categories have been honored. Congratulations to both Carol and our organization for these very special honors.



### Bread & Broth Receives \$10,000 Grant from Give Tahoe

Give Tahoe, formerly South Lake Tahoe Endowment Fund and a fund of the El Dorado Community Foundation, recently honored Bread & Broth with a \$10,000 Give Tahoe Pivot Grant. This grant was provided to several non-profits in the South Lake Tahoe area who addressed the emerging problems occurring in our community. Bread & Broth specifically addressed B&B's COVID-19 Emergency Fund which focused on the increased needs for funding to feed those facing food insecurity in pandemic times. Bread & Broth will use these funds to purchase food for the bags distributed each Monday and Friday and the bags given out to 300 plus students in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and the local preschools.

### Words from "Wish to Remain Anonymous"

Sometimes it is important to remember why we do what we do. Recently, this email was sent to Bread & Broth by an anonymous recipient of our Monday food giveaway.

"I picked up food today for the first time, and it was difficult for me to admit that my family of 4 could even use this help to make our currently-limited income stretch as far as it needs to these days. The ladies who helped today were so kind and helpful, and when I got home, my heart overflowed with gratitude when seeing all of the fresh, healthy foods- fruits and veggies, milk, butter, eggs, even meat, to fill up our fridge. My kids were thrilled with the muffins, and when I saw The Attic gift certificate, I was moved to tears. That will help so much with snow clothes for our kids. Thank you to all of the volunteers, donors, and community partners who make this support possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

All of you- volunteers, donors, those who support Bread & Broth- you have made this possible. THANK YOU!





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

### The People You Never See.....

Many of you have served Bread & Broth in a variety of ways- Monday Meals, Second Serving, packing for the B&B 4 Kids program, and now the COVID-19 Emergency Programs. Many of us arrive at our assigned time and complete our volunteer responsibilities without giving thought to where the food comes from, how it got there, how it was ordered, who set it up. Our focus in this newsletter is to recognize the many folks who donate their time to do these jobs, folks we never see each week as we volunteer.

**Roberta Strachan**, B&B Food Coordination Chairperson, is in charge of ordering all food and coordinating donation pick up for the Monday Meal/Food Giveaway, Second Serving/Food Giveaway, and the B&B 4 Kids Program (fruit purchases).

Every Monday and Friday, Roberta and her team spend 3-4 hours picking up food at grocery stores and restaurants in South Lake Tahoe. They bring the food back to Grace Hall and begin the process of setting up the food on the 4-5 tables to get it ready for packing those afternoons. Bar codes have to be marked off certain items and other food items such as meat and salads have to be stored in coolers. Tables set up specifically for seniors, the homeless, and those without cooking appliances are organized by these volunteers. These same volunteers also help with the delivery once a month from the El Dorado Food Bank. Food has to be unloaded, organized and stored in the garage next to Grace Hall. On Thursdays and Sundays, Roberta comes to Grace Hall early to get ready for these deliveries, the set up, and clean up. In addition, Roberta spends many hours each week ordering food from local stores as well as Bonanza and Crystal Dairy.



**Roberta Strachan** serves as Food Coordination Chairperson of B&B. Roberta was a principal of a school in San Francisco before heading to Lake Tahoe after retirement to experience a change from the sea to the mountains. She has served in this position for the last 13 years! In Roberta's free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and traveling.



Many thanks to all of Roberta's team for the many hours they put in each week. These individuals have seen their hours increase due to the changes presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These team members include:

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|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rick Chilcott</b>   | <b>Jamison Delallo</b> | <b>Bill Eeles</b>   |
| <b>Peggy Ellena</b>    | <b>Dan Glero</b>       | <b>Greta Hamsch</b> |
| <b>Cheyenne Lane</b>   | <b>Freddie Laurian</b> | <b>Susan Newbre</b> |
| <b>Kate McCullough</b> | <b>Charles Round</b>   | <b>John Olsen</b>   |
| <b>Diane Weidinger</b> | <b>Janet Young</b>     | <b>Kevin Young</b>  |