



Bread & Broth

Volunteer Newsletter



The Beginning of a **Return** to Bread & Broth's Traditional Services

A Note from our Director....

Dear Fellow Volunteers,

2021 was definitely a challenging year with COVID-19, the Caldor Fire and the most recent snow storms, but thanks to the generosity of our donors and active volunteers, Bread & Broth has had much to be thankful for. Since the beginning of the year, Bread & Broth has touched the lives of an average of 719 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 \$230,000 on dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables, meats, and other nutritional staples to distribute twice weekly. We hosted both a Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway and a Christmas Meal Giveaway to help our neighbors have a bright spot in their holidays. Additionally, Bread & Broth has provided healthy food through our B&B 4 Kids program to students in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District. Thankfully, Bread & Broth's mission to ease hunger has continued successfully.

It has also been an honor to represent this organization as your new Director. I feel very fortunate to have the support of our Advisory Board and our volunteers in such an important role. I am aware that Bread & Broth is highly regarded in the South Lake Tahoe Community. I am planning on keeping its acclaimed reputation while leading this remarkable organization into 2022.

There is so much to look forward to in 2022. We 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, which we hope will be in early 2022. My wish for 2022 is for your continued good health and safety. Happy New Year to each of you!

Sabine Hardin,
Director, Bread & Broth

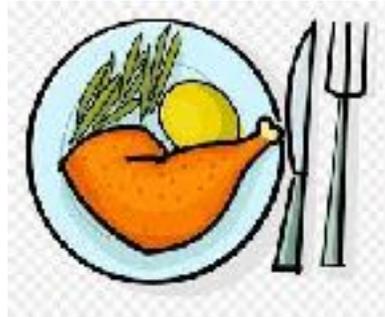
Without further COVID complications, Bread & Broth will return to some of their traditional meal services in the near future. After almost two years of providing Monday and Friday food giveaways due to the pandemic and the Caldor fire evacuation, transitioning back to hot meal service will be a welcome event.

Monday Food Giveaways will continue on Mondays from 4:00- 5:30 p.m. until further notice. Friday Food Giveaways will be discontinued after January 14, 2022. Numbers have decreased over the last two months; however, clients can continue to pick up bags of food each Monday.

In the absence of future COVID complications, **Second Serving** will begin providing soup/simple entree meals in February or March at the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Local restaurants will provide soup each Friday, and Bread & Broth volunteer cooks and servers will provide a salad or simple entree.

It is our hope that 3-4 weeks after Second Serving has successfully reinstated services, the Monday Meals hot dinner service will resume. All timelines will be dependent on the current COVID surge and the ability to develop protocols for the safety of both volunteers and guests.

Volunteers who have served in these programs in the past will be contacted by program chairpersons and team leads over the next few weeks to secure weekly teams for both Monday Meals and Second Serving. Volunteers from the food giveaways will also be contacted for their interest in serving on these teams.





Edgewood Tahoe Resort's Brittani Schue, Marketing Manager, and Loni Huot, Executive Chef, deliver 800 cookies for Bread & Broth's Christmas food giveaway

In Memoriam.....



Sheila Costanzo, a long-time Bread & Broth volunteer and former Advisory Board member, passed away on November 4, 2021 after a long illness. Sheila leaves behind her three sons, their families including six grandchildren.

For many years, Sheila served as a lead for the Monday Meals serving team and then served as a co-chairperson on the B&B Advisory Board for several years prior to her resignation in September due to poor health. Sheila was a dedicated volunteer and spent innumerable hours serving Bread & Broth. As one of her team members stated, "Sheila was vivacious, friendly and caring". Another team member shared, "Sheila was a wonderful person and team leader. She was always there to help and answer my questions. She was so warm and caring."

On behalf of the entire Bread & Broth organization, our condolences to her family. She will be greatly missed.

Bread & Broth Holiday Meal Giveaways Help Many

Bread & Broth once again hosted holiday meal food giveaways this year to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to food insecure members of the Lake Tahoe South Shore community. Over 900 members of our community benefitted from not only the regular food giveaway groceries, but also items to ensure a delicious holiday meal.

On Monday, November 22nd, Bread & Broth distributed the normal food staples such as fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products (milk, eggs, butter), and breads and pastries while the holiday meal donations covered the cost of a traditional Thanksgiving meal which included turkey breasts, stuffing, gravy, canned yams, the fixings for a green bean casserole, and sparking cider. This meal would not have been complete without the 1,000 rolls provided by Bally's Lake Tahoe Casino Resort and 180 pumpkin/apple/pecan pies donated by Smart & Final.

On Monday, December 20th, donated funds supplemented the basic giveaway food staple bags by including ham, canned pineapple, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole fixings, and sparking cider. Once again, local businesses donated to make the festive meals complete. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino donated 800 rolls; Safeway, Raley's at the "Y", and Raley's at Stateline donated Christmas candy; and the culinary staff at Edgewood baked over 800 delicious homemade peppermint/sugar cookies.

Thank you to the many volunteers, community members, businesses, and organizations for their generosity in making this such a memorable holiday for so many.





Pieces of the Puzzle: Our Friday Food Giveaway Team Leads



Nearly two years ago, Bread & Broth faced the challenge of modifying their hot meal services due to the onset of the COVID pandemic. Both Monday Meal and Second Serving meals were replaced with food giveaways. Teams were developed to set up, pack and distribute these groceries each week. Four volunteers generously stepped up to lead the Friday teams.

Brandi Bannister began volunteering for Second Serving five years ago as a Second Serving server, lead cook, and then coordinator for Second Serving teams. After the resignation of Dave Carneggie, Brandi became the chairperson of the Second Serving program and has served on the Bread & Broth Advisory Board for the last 3 1/2 years. When a fire destroyed much of the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church, Brandi facilitated the move of Second Serving services to Grace and Globin Hall at St Theresa Catholic Church.

With the onset of the COVID pandemic, coupled with her passion and commitment to serving others, Brandi eagerly volunteered to serve as a Friday team lead twice monthly and helped recruit others to volunteer and lead the Friday teams. Brandi was always willing to substitute when vacancies occurred; her efforts have led to Friday teams being fully staffed over the past 22 months.

Brandi's current job is providing care for elderly clients. In her off time, Brandi enjoys gardening, beekeeping, and spending time with her family. In addition to her deep involvement with Bread & Broth, Brandi also has served for several years on the Lake Tahoe Unified School Board and is currently serving as the President of the High Sierra Softball Youth League.



Janet Jarvis began volunteering for Bread & Broth five years ago as a cook for Second Serving as a means of connecting with people in her community. Although Janet's passion is cooking, she graciously agreed to oversee a Friday Food Giveaway packing team once a month to ensure continued food services for those in need.

Janet's full time job is as a nurse manager for a senior mental health and wellness program at Carson Valley Medical Center. Janet and her husband of 36 years, Ray, have two grown children. In her free time, Janet enjoys cooking, hiking, fishing, reading, gardening, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Janet stated that it has been an honor to serve the community of South Lake Tahoe and to work with the great volunteers at Bread & Broth.

Susanne Bull (left) works for Barton Hospital as a speech therapist. She enjoys time with her family and traveling. Susanne loves everything outdoors: skiing, biking, and camping. Susanne was recruited in March, 2020 to assist as a Friday team lead and has continued with this support throughout the entire pandemic.

Cary Brown (right) works for the Lake Tahoe Unified School District as an instructional assistant. She spends as much free time as possible in the outdoors skiing, hiking and beaching it. Cary was inspired to get involved in serving as a team lead after volunteering and observing her friend Susanne who "has always chosen to give back to children, our schools and our community".

Susanne and Cary often co-lead a Friday team and commented on the friendships that have developed the past two years. Their team has become important to both of them and as Cary stated, "volunteering every couple of weeks was sometimes the most social we had been since the last time we worked together!".



All four Friday team leads commented on the appreciation that individuals and families express each and every Friday as they pick up food. For many of these clients who have struggled with decreased work hours and unemployment through both the pandemic and the Caldor Fire evacuation, the Bread & Broth food giveaways have been a lifesaver.

Thank you to Brandi, Susanne, Cary and Janet for their continued support over the past 22 months. In difficult times when pandemic protocols were uncertain and no vaccine was available, these volunteers showed up with their teams one to two times a month to support our Friday giveaways. Their leadership has been greatly appreciated.

Pieces of the Puzzle: Our Monday and Friday Food Giveaway Teams



We would like to thank the regular team members who have volunteered on Fridays to support the food giveaway events: **Allen Meeker, Aryn Yancher, Lynn Thomas, Sharon Drolet, Mollie Hurt, Kerry Ireland, Valerie Castejon, Herve Goguely, Sylvie Brun and Pat Frega.**

We would also like to thank the Monday Food giveaway regular team members who have served over the past 22 months: **Carmen Hardin, Michael Freeman, Larry Bernard, Anna Russell, Tevai Hermann, Shannon Burke, Michelle Benedict, Toni Kaufmann, Lenka Hrebivkova, Sarah Hardin, Meryl Lowell, Marvinna Haynes, Tina Miranda, Lori London, Melissa Bornstein, Bob Harms, Erin Reardon, Linda Loughrin, and Karen Martin.**

Finally, we would like to thank the many substitutes who, often on late notice, would arrive to help when needed. When regular team members were absent, these subs stepped up to make sure our giveaways could continue to operate each and every week.

Thank you again to all team members. Your efforts every two weeks for nearly two years ensured that our community members were well fed during the COVID pandemic, the many variants, and after the Caldor Fire evacuation. Your continued efforts have truly supported Bread & Broth's mission to support all those facing food insecurity in Lake Tahoe South Shore community.



Grants and Donations Support the B&B 4 Kids Program

In October, Bread & Broth 4 Kids was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the **American Century Championship and Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority** to support the Weekend Backpack Food Program. The entirety of this donation will be used to purchase nutritious and protein rich foods for an average of 170 children each week.

Every year after the American Century Championship Golf Tournament, the ACC committee, along with the Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority, identify local non-profits to benefit from the tournament proceeds. Bread & Broth has been fortunate to be honored with being a recipient for many years. The ACC grant has supported the Kids backpack program, the provision of nutritious snacks and protein bars for the Lake Tahoe Unified School District K-8 schools, and last year in the midst of the pandemic supported the delivery of food bags to preschool children at seven local child care centers serving low-income families.

Thank you to the American Century Championship committee and the Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority for partnering with Bread & Broth each year to ensure that children in the Lake Tahoe South Shore community do not go hungry.

Elks Provides \$3,000 Donation to the B&B 4 Kids Program

In December, representatives from the Elks Lodge #2670 presented Paula Peterson, Co-Chair of the B&B 4 Kids program, with a \$3,000 check for the Kids backpack program. This donation was made on behalf of the **Nevada Elks Major Project** which has made a statewide effort to support local programs for children.

The local Elks have supported not only the Kids' program but have also participated as Adopt-A-Day sponsors in previous years. Bread & Broth would like to thank both the statewide Elks program and the local Lodge for their continued support of Bread & Broth in their efforts to feed many in our community.

Below, Paula Petersen receives the donation from Dan Wells, President of the Nevada State Elks Association; J.J. Clause, and Jim Plamenig, members of Lodge #2670.

