



Bread & Broth

Volunteer Newsletter

From Our Director.....

As we enter the year 2024, I would like to reflect back on 2023 and highlight a few of the many strides the organization has taken to enhance our services and improve our outreach to the community.

Back in April, Bread & Broth's Advisory Board approved the redesign of Bread & Broth's website to enhance the look of the site and increase the ease of making donations and learning about volunteer opportunities. All updates will be completed by the end of January; take a look at the website www.breadandbroth.org and let us know what you think.

In August, Bread & Broth was awarded \$22,400 from the Marcella Foundation to set up a B&B 4 Tots pilot program to provide food to children ages 18 months to 5 years of age, a demographic that the B&B Advisory Board has been wanting to serve for the past several years. The grant funds are being used to purchase age-appropriate food to be given to 70 children attending five local childcare centers serving low-income families.

In September, B&B submitted a partnership application to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. By becoming a member of the FBNN, B&B is also partnering with Feeding America. Up to three times a month, the FBNN will provide free food and purchased food at reduced prices (due to their bulk buying capabilities) to B&B. This enables B&B to provide more food staples to our dinner guests and the children in our community.

As the new year unfolds, B&B will strive to continue our efforts to improve our programs and increase the quality and quantity of the food we serve to continue our mission to ease hunger.

Best Wishes for a healthy and happy 2024!

Sincerely,
Carol Gerard



Thanksgiving Dinner Brings Joy to Many

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of nights stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" is a motto long associated with the US Postal Service, and with that same spirit, the Bread & Broth Thanksgiving dinner crew carried on to cook and serve their annual meal on November 20th despite electricity being disconnected down through Lyons Avenue on the day of the big event. Sierra Valley Electric went above and beyond to provide generators to ensure that Grace Hall had power for the meal during the Liberty Utilities' power outage needed to perform critical work before the winter storms.

Over 55 volunteers labored tirelessly to provide a delicious Thanksgiving meal for over 215 dinner guests. Preparation began on the Friday before, with various cooking crews working in shifts to provide turkey, gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole and homemade cranberry sauce. Golden Nugget provided the dinner rolls and Smart & Final donated 60 pumpkin, cherry, apple and pecan pies. Dinner guests were also delighted with seconds, "to go" servings, and bags of fresh produce, dairy, meat, and canned goods to take home.

This annual holiday meal has been hosted by Bread & Broth for over 30 years, and is open to the entire community. The dinner is made possible by the very generous donations from businesses and local community members; this year over \$8,000 was collected to support the purchase of the ingredients and food needed for the holiday meal.

Dinner guests were full of smiles, compliments, and appreciation for the meal. Not only is this the only Thanksgiving meal some will have, but the friendship and fellowship shared during the event provided for a festive occasion.

Many thanks to the many volunteers, the businesses who donated food and services, and the many folks in South Lake Tahoe who contributed financially to make this Thanksgiving a joyful one for so many of our fellow residents.



Vail EpicPromise Grant Awarded to Bread & Broth

In November, Bread & Broth was honored with a \$16,000 grant from Vail Resorts through their Epic Promise program.

Every year, Vail Resorts provides funding through this grant program to support non-profit organizations in the communities where their ski resorts are located. Bread & Broth has been fortunate to receive EpicPromise grant money for more than twelve years.

A portion of the money will be used to purchase kid-friendly food for the B&B 4 Kids program. With an increase in the number of children being served, these funds have been essential to providing weekend food bags to food insecure children and boxes of nutrition bars for children who come to school hungry or become hungry during the school day.

Grant monies will also be used to support the Monday Meal "Green Goal" project which allows B&B to purchase fresh produce (fruits and vegetables) along with dairy products (milk, butter and eggs) to distribute to dinner guests along with the donated staples, meat, breads, canned goods they receive.

Finally, the remaining funds will be used to support the Monday Meal "Adopt A Day of Nourishment" program. The grant money will be used to supplement the purchase of food for twelve Monday Meals. In addition, Heavenly Ski Resort and Kirkwood Mountain Resort (both Vail resorts) provide 4-5 volunteers at each of these twelve events to help set up and serve the dinner. As one of the Heavenly volunteers shared after volunteering, "Amazing experience. There is a need in the community, and to help serve that need was great. I feel lucky to be a part of it!"

In addition to this very generous grant, both Heavenly and Kirkwood Resorts often donate food and nutrition bars to our various programs at the end of the ski and summer seasons.

Bread & Broth is grateful for the many charitable contributions that Vail EpicPromise and the local Vail resorts provide for our organization.



Pay It Forward Project Funds Bread & Broth Second Serving Program

St. Theresa Bread & Broth is honored to announce the awarding of a Pay It Forward Project (PIFP) grant of \$7,000 to annually fund their Second Serving meal. PIFP strives to encourage community members to make a difference through volunteerism and supports organizations which are non-profits and are staffed by local volunteers. Because every individual can make a "positive difference in our community", the Pay It Forward Project provides monetary support to organizations that offer community members volunteer opportunities that help to improve the lives of others.

The Pay It Forward Project also funds and encourages youth service projects as well as providing scholarships for many local schools in and out of the Lake Tahoe basin. South Tahoe High School, Whittell High School, and Lake Tahoe Community College clubs and students have all been the recipient of PIFP funds and have had a major impact on encouraging volunteerism in the youth of our community.

As a longtime benefactor of the Bread & Broth organization, the Pay It Forward Project has sponsored Bread & Broth Monday Meals through the organization's Adopt A Day of Nourishment sponsorship program and making monetary donations over the years.

The recently awarded Pay It Forward Project grant will annually fund the operating costs of Bread & Broth's Second Serving meal. Second Serving is held at the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church from 4 to 5:00 p.m. every Friday. The meal consists of a simple entrée (chili dogs, meatloaf, etc.) and a hot soup which is provided by local area restaurants. In addition to the hot meal, the dinner guests are offered food giveaway items from local grocery stores when available. Currently, Second Serving is feeding between 40-50 dinner guests every Friday.

Bread & Broth is very fortunate to have the Pay It Forward Project funding the Second Serving meal. This very generous on-going gift, especially during this time of high food costs, will support Bread & Broth's efforts to ease hunger and also provide an avenue for community members to make a positive difference in our community through volunteerism.



Bread & Broth 4 Kids Fall Activities



Happy volunteers at the Cram-A-Hearse in October



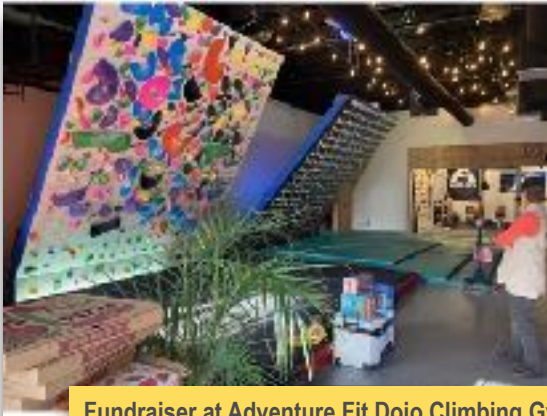
Trick or Treat Event at Heavenly Villages Halloween Event



South of North Brewing Company Fundraiser Oktoberfest October 1



Making Gingerbread Houses with Students at Mt. Tallac High School



Fundraiser at Adventure Fit Dojo Climbing Gym Round Hill



Cheryl Breitwieser, Co-Chair of the B&B 4 Kids program, accepted a donation from the SLT Optimist Club

Bread & Broth 4 Kids has been busy over the past three months, both with fundraising activities and extra special events for the children of our community. In October, fundraisers included the annual Cram-A-Hearse, an Oktoberfest celebration held at South of North Brewing Company, and a fundraising event held at Adventure Fit Dojo Climbing Gym. In November, the B&B 4 Kids program was awarded a \$2,500 donation from the South Lake Tahoe Optimist Club. Holiday activities included a candy giveaway at Heavenly Village at Halloween and a special gingerbread house event for Mt. Tallac High School students.

The B&B 4 Kids program currently serves 170 children in the LTUSD as well as 70 children attending child care centers serving low income families by providing weekend food bags. It is expected that these numbers will increase after winter break. In addition, over 500 nutrition bars are delivered to schools each week to address children who come to school hungry or become hungry during the school day.

On December 20th, B&B 4 Kids volunteers packed 726 bags to accommodate students over the winter break from school. Along with the regular meals, fruit and snacks, children received a special stocking filled with candy canes. The B&B 4 Tots bags also contained books provided by the Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra organization.

Thanks to the many B&B 4 Kids volunteers who participated in these many activities and fundraising events. You provided many happy smiles on the faces of the children of South Lake Tahoe.



Winter Break Packing



Pieces of the Bread & Broth Puzzle:
Our Monday Meal Week #4
Cooking and Serving Teams &
Our New Advisory Board Members



MM Week# 4 Cooking Team(left to right):
Ernie Bornstein, Melissa Bornstein, Jeffrey Vanderlip
Missing from the picture: Cathy Riccioli



MM Week #4 Serving Team (left to right):
Bob Niedermeier, Steve Campbell, Juliette Tanzi, Sandi Hamm, Charlie Hamm, Louise Mitchell, Julia Martinez
Missing from the picture: Allan Bisbee, Rick Chilcott, Josh Seibert, Hedy Lim, Torah Jordan

Every third week of the month, our **B&B Monday Meal Week #4 Cooking Team** meets to prepare another delicious meal. Led by team lead Jeffrey Vanderlip, the group includes Ernie and Melissa Bornstein, and Cathy Riccioli. The team agrees that the dinner guests are most appreciative, and that keeps them returning each month. Jeffrey agreed to be a lead cook last year, and comments that "Cooking for 100 is a lot different than cooking for 10!"

The **Week #4 Serving Team**, led by Charlie and Sandi Hamm, agree that all of the dinner guests are so happy to gather at Grace Hall each Monday, and their smiles and appreciation are what makes them come back each month. Julia Martinez works the dessert table, and has been involved in serving over 20 years. Others like Charlie and Sandi, are retired and have plenty of time to serve the community. Steve Campbell shared that his parents served when they were alive, and he volunteers in honor of them. Reflecting on his many years living in the area, Steve shares, "This is a tough time to live in Tahoe. Many of our residents are just trying to make it. Here at Bread & Broth, we're doing something to support and help them, giving them a helping hand." Thanks to the Week #4 Cooking and Serving Teams for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the Monday Meal program!

New Advisory Board Members

Jeffrey Vanderlip, Treasurer and Janet Blumberg, Volunteer Coordinator



Jeffrey has lived in California his entire life, first in Los Angeles, then San Jose, and now Tahoe where he loves to hike, bike, golf, and play pickleball. Jeffrey has a BS in Computer Science from UC Irvine and an MBA from Cal State Northridge. He worked at several technology companies until retiring in 2021. In addition to volunteer work at Bread & Broth, he's also a volunteer instructor at LTCC.



Janet was born in New York City to parents who had immigrated to the U.S. from Argentina. She moved to LA at age five and finished her schooling in CA. Janet has had positions in the engineering and pipe designing fields, and at one point in her career lived in southern India for two years. She not only serves as the Volunteer Coordinator but serves as an Adopt A Day coordinator at Monday Meals during Week 3. In her free time, Janet is active in the Zephyr Cove Tennis Club and is an avid knitter.