



# Bread & Broth

## Volunteer Newsletter

### A Note From Our Director

Dear Fellow Volunteers,

I am returning to the Director position in an interim capacity after the resignation of Sabine Hardin. We are currently looking to fill this position with a permanent director, and I will serve in the meantime. Many thanks to Sabine for her service over the past 18 months as Director and her dedication to the organization. Sabine will continue to serve as the Monday Meal Volunteer Chairperson and as a B&B 4 Kids team lead.

On another note, many of us have noticed that the COVID pandemic altered our lives in ways that we never could have imagined. Based on studies, many people are still experiencing loneliness and isolation even after the pandemic is no longer considered an emergency and all restrictions have been lifted.

As human beings, we are wired to have social needs, and lack of social interactions can lead to feeling isolated which can be harmful to both our physical and mental well-being. To help alleviate the sense of disconnectedness, the US Surgeon General is recommending that we reach out to others.

Calling or texting friends, setting up dinner or movie get-togethers, attending our place of worship, and of course volunteering, are simple ways of connecting with others. By volunteering at Bread & Broth events, not only are we increasing our connection to others but we are also impacting every other volunteer, dinner guest, or school child that we interface with. Every kind word, every time we do something nice for someone else, we are letting them know that they matter and are worth connecting with.

Small acts of kindness can go a long way and help everyone feel a little less alone.

Carol Gerard  
Interim Director



### B&B 4 Kids Summer Program Begins With Smiles

On Wednesday, July 5th, the B&B 4 Kids Summer Program began with children arriving at Grace Hall to pick up groceries for the week. The program serves local children during the summer break from school each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This annual program provides children 18 and under the opportunity to pick up nutritious food items such as cereal, fortified milk, bread, peanut butter, canned meats, single serving meals, fresh fruit and nutrition bars. A special snack is also provided for all children. On Week 1, it was ice cream, a welcome surprise after the warm temperatures.

The children were all excited to go through the "food buffet" line picking out items for the week. When asked about what this Wednesday food buffet meant to him, one child (who also participated last year) shared, "My mom and I are going to go on a picnic with the food and then I go put the food in my kitchen". Another veteran attendee, now a middle schooler, went through the line and then hugged the volunteers (Lauren Evison, Kristy Partridge, and Cindy Erhart) and thoughtfully added, "You're so nice". Such a sweet reminder of how important our volunteers are!

In addition, food bags are packed for children at local child care centers: Boys & Girls Club, Catalyst Community, Catalyst Kids, Head Start, LTCC Childcare, CASA, Live Violence Free and Step by Step.

Anyone interested in volunteering on any Wednesday morning throughout the summer can contact Sue Fry at [bbvolunteers2021@gmail.com](mailto:bbvolunteers2021@gmail.com).



### Accolades to B&B "Best of Tahoe 2023"

Congratulations to all Bread & Broth volunteers as we were first runner up in the Best of Tahoe awards (Best Charity) and to Cheryl Breitwieser, B&B 4 Kids Co-Chairperson, who was a runner up for Best Volunteer! Congratulations!

### B&B 4 Kids Holds Spring Fundraisers



**Bread & Broth 4 Kids Spring Cram -A- Cruiser**

Bread & Broth 4 Kids hosted its semi-annual Cram-A-Cruiser on Saturday, May 6th at the Grocery Outlet parking lot. Although the weather was brutal (imagine snow, rain, wind and hail), a faithful group of volunteers manned the collection tent and the police cruiser.

Luckily, the weather did not deter our wonderful community from donating. Hundreds of items on the B & B 4 Kids "Wish List" were donated, filling the shelves with needed items for both the weekend food bag program and the Kids Summer Program. Over \$330 was also donated allowing us to purchase needed items. Thanks to the many volunteers who came out, the SLT Police Department and to all of you who donated kid friendly grocery items.

### April Fundraiser at Flatstick Pub

During the month of April, Bread & Broth 4 Kids volunteers hosted a booth at Flatstick Pub to raise money for the B&B 4 Kids Weekend Food Bag Program. Flatstick donated \$1 to the organization for every round of mini golf played and for every beer purchased all day on Sundays during the month. A total of \$1,445 was raised during the month.

Each Sunday during the month, volunteers from the B&B program manned a booth at Flatstick, promoting the program. Both local residents and out of town visitors stopped to learn more about the program and participate in the golf and beverage purchases.



**Bread & Broth 4 Kids** volunteers (left to right) Christy Slocum, Barry Slocum, Al Breitwieser, Cheryl Breitwieser, Carol Fontana and Oliver Fontana enjoy a game of mini-golf after an afternoon of volunteering.



### Bread & Broth Participates in the South Lake Tahoe 4th of July Parade



Bread & Broth participated in its first ever appearance in South Lake Tahoe's annual 4th of July parade. Two vehicles provided by and driven by Jan Young and Beth Faulconer were followed by an additional 10 volunteers marching in the 2 1/2 mile parade route, carrying the B&B banners and passing out over 500 nutrition bars. Volunteers were decked out in Bread & Broth aprons and holiday headpieces. A big hit was "Hank the Tank" sitting in the convertible driven by Jan Young (see below, accompanied by Father Joseph Sebastian) and the many treats and small American flags handed out by the B&B crew.

Volunteers noted the great turnout of the community as well as the positivity of all involved. As B&B Interim Director Carol Gerard noted, "It was truly the best, seeing the community come out in great numbers and celebrating not only this special holiday but the enthusiasm of the community." Roberta Strachan, one of the volunteer participants, shared, "So much fun and so many said thank you for all you do". Such a reflection on the importance of the many B&B programs and the work of our volunteers.

An added bonus of the event was that Bread & Broth received the runner up award for "Best of Non-Profit Entries" in the parade. Thanks to all volunteers who participated and all of you who turned out to support the parade!

More photos on the last page!







## Bread & Broth Receives Generous Grants From Local Organizations

### Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe

In May, the B&B 4 Kids Program was honored with a \$5,000 Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe 2023 Community Service Grant. This grant will be used to support two separate aspects of the Kids' program. One part of the grant will be used to fund the school weekend food bag program which will provide over 250 weekend food bags for children during the 2023-2024 school year. An additional \$2,500 will be used to support the B&B 4 Kids "School Healthy Snack" Program which provides nutritious snack bars to all of the LTUSD school sites every week during the school year. These bars are distributed by school personnel to children who come to school hungry or become hungry during the school day. Over 500 bars are delivered to seven schools each week. Our greatest appreciation to SISLT for this generous donation.



### City of South Lake Tahoe- Cannabis Revenue Grant

For the past two years, the SLT City Council has distributed funds totaling over \$400,000 under the Cannabis Revenue Grant. Cannabis businesses are required to remit to the City a monthly Community Benefit Fee, equal to 6% of their gross receipts for that month. The program is intended to mitigate the potential impacts of the cannabis industry and promote the priorities of the City's Strategic Plan.

This year, Bread & Broth was awarded a \$10,000 Cannabis Revenue Grant to support our "Green Goal" Project. At each Monday Meal, fresh produce and dairy are passed out to dining guests to take home for use during the week. Leftover bags are also delivered to previously homeless individuals now being housed in renovated hotels when volunteers are available. Many of our dinner guests suggest that without these "Green Goal" bag items, they would not have access to fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy.

Many thanks to the SLT City Council for this very generous support of our efforts to provide nutritious foods to the food insecure in our community.



### GIVE Tahoe Fund- El Dorado Community Foundation



Over the past five years, Bread & Broth has been the recipient of a GIVE Tahoe Grant sponsored by the El Dorado Community Foundation. This year, the GIVE Tahoe Grant provided \$2,500 to support the B&B 4 Kids "School Healthy Snacks" Program designed to provide nutritious snack bars to children in the LTUSD schools. Many of these children arrive to school hungry or become hungry during the school day. In the past, teachers have had to subsidize these purchases; it is the hope of the B&B 4 Kids Program that we can support schools in making sure children have access to nutritious snacks; hungry children cannot learn.

Bread & Broth is so appreciative of the continued partnership with the El Dorado Community Foundation and the GIVE Tahoe Fund Cabinet.



**Pieces of the Puzzle: Our Working Teams**  
**Monday Meal Week #2 Cook and Serving Volunteers and**  
**Our Deep Cleaning Team**



**Week 2 Monday Meal Cooks** (left to right): Patti Fischer, Lynn Thomas, Jane Moore, Erin Spicer, Diane Weidinger, and Haley Graf. Absent from the picture: Evey Szanto

**MM Week #2 Cooking Team**

Once a month, the MM Week #2 Cooking Team gathers to cook another delicious meal for between 70 and 100 dinner guests. As cook Jane Moore reveals, “Diane Weidinger (lead cook) challenges us with wonderful menus which makes cooking fun and motivating.” Adds Erin Spicer, “Our hard work is rewarded by happy guests with full bellies asking for “to-go’s” because they love the meal so much”. All of the cooks recognize the importance of their once monthly volunteer experience. As Jane Moore points out, “These meals are the only way many people can have the opportunity to have healthy foods and be treated kindly. The food giveaway program is generous.”

Thank you to the MM Week #2 Cooking Team for the wonderful meals you provide for our community!



**Week 2 Today Meal Serving Volunteers** (left to right): Harold Golden, Valerie Castejon, Stefan Watkins, Shannon De Maria, Anne Schrauben, Patti Wheeler, Rock Chilcott, Deborah Gwaltney, Cindy Ochoa, and Christopher Gwaltney

**MM Week #2 Serving Team**

Along with the cooking team, the dining hall volunteers for MM Week #2 provide a variety of services to help facilitate a meal for a large number of dinner guests. Volunteers prepare the dinnerware, arrange the dessert and drink tables, arrange the bags that need to be packed with meat, fresh produce, dairy products, and canned goods, get ready to serve and then take down tables and chairs after the dinner concludes. Volunteers arrive at 3:00 and often don’t leave until 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The team has close interaction with the dinner guests. As Anne Schrauben, Week #2 Coordinator shares, “ I see the guests we serve who are grateful for the hot meal and staples we give and the time the volunteers give to the program”.

Thank you to our Week #2 MM Serving team for your continued dedication and support of the Monday Meal Program.

**Quarterly Deep Cleaning Crew**

Nobody gets overly excited to deep clean their kitchen, but sometimes it is more pleasant to clean a kitchen other than your own. Each quarter, a team gathers to clean the Grace Hall kitchen; wiping out and cleaning refrigerators, cleaning the burners and oven with a scrub brush, wiping down walls and windows, pulling out cabinets and drawers to rid them of crumbs and dirt, and mopping floors thoroughly. As Kelly Collman, one of the recent volunteers, shared about her recent cleaning experience, “Many hands (and listening to some fun tunes) made light work!”

This crew changes quarterly so if you are interested in joining one of the teams, please contact Sue Fry at [bbvolunteers2021@gmail.com](mailto:bbvolunteers2021@gmail.com).



**March 2023 Deep Cleaning Crew** (left to right): KyungAe Bae, Kelly Collman, Mary Ann Valles, Anne Hall, Janet Blumberg, Julie Marks





More Fun at the South Lake Tahoe 4th of July Parade

**4th of July Parade participants** (left to right): Caroline Geer, Tina Miranda, Cynthia Wigart, Jan Young, Father Joseph Sebastian, Roberta Strachan, Mary Ann Valles, Jennifer Watts, PJ Faulconer, Vanessa Faulconer, Beth Faulconer and Carol Gerard (not pictured)

