A Ministry of
St. Theresa Catholic Church

# Newsletter

Volume 31 | Fall 2026

## Letter from the Director

Dear Fellow Bread & Broth Volunteers,

Bread & Broth volunteers strive to ensure that the people we serve feel cared for and are treated with dignity. Showing compassion for those we serve is a very important facet of our role in providing food for those in need.

As a Bread & Broth volunteer, this same consideration of kindness, respect, and cooperation plays an important role in our interactions with our fellow volunteers. As a volunteer community, it is important that we value all of our fellow volunteers and encourage an environment where volunteers feel included, appreciated, and valued as members of the Bread & Broth 'family.'

Warmly welcoming new volunteers, helping others when you've finished your assigned tasks, asking what else you can do to help, staying a little later at the end of the shift to help the Team Leads—these are all ways in which volunteers make our Bread & Broth volunteer community so strong and resilient.

Sometimes the simplest acts of kindness and helpfulness make all the difference in strengthening our volunteer family. After his first shift at the Second Serving Meal, a new volunteer wrote to his Team Leads: "Thank you for a remarkable experience on Friday. Everyone made me feel genuinely welcome and treated me with so much kindness and respect." He added that he was thankful to his fellow volunteers for "taking time to train me, answer my questions, and make me feel like part of the team."

I am so proud of our Bread & Broth volunteers. This note could have been written about any one of you. Thank you for being outstanding individuals and making the organization such a wonderful and satisfying place to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Carol Gerard
Director, Bread & Broth

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; **they have the heart**."*

*Elizabeth Andrew*

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# Grants & Donations

**Community generosity fueling our mission**

## Tahoe Community Foundation Awards $22,000 to Bread & Broth

Bread & Broth was recently awarded a $20,000 **Tahoe Community Foundation** 2026 Community Impact Grant and was also granted an additional $2,000 through the Donor Advised/Co-Investment Program, specifically the Gap Fund monies. This very generous donation will be used in its entirety to purchase food for our "Green Goal" Project and the B&B4 Kids/Tots Program.

Bread & Broth has maintained a continued partnership with the Tahoe Community Foundation over the past five years. It is Tahoe's oldest and largest community foundation, dedicated to cultivating community philanthropy and enhancing and preserving the quality of life at Tahoe. Since its inception, the community foundation has granted over $165 million to charitable causes in the region.

TAHOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Bread & Broth is appreciative of the generosity of the Foundation and its many donors that make the Community Impact Grant so helpful in maintaining our food outreach programs.

## Safeway and Customers donate Gift Cards to Second Serving

Guests at Bread & Broth's Second Serving meal on Friday, September 25th, enjoyed squash soup prepared and donated by **Edgewood Tahoe Resort** and a steak medley pasta dish prepared by Second Serving cook Shawn Miller. What also put a big smile on their faces was the $50 **Safeway** gift card they received as they entered the dining area at Lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church.

SAFEWAY

Food Bank El Dorado County

Through donations from its customers, Safeway provides gift cards to residents of communities where it operates stores. To ensure that those in the most need of food receive the gift cards, Safeway collaborates with the **Food Bank of El Dorado County** to select non-profit organizations for the distribution of the gift cards. Bread & Broth is very thankful to have been selected by the Food Bank of El Dorado County to be the recipient of 50 gift cards worth $50 each—a total value of $2,500—to distribute to Bread & Broth clients.

This generous donation from Safeway and its customers was warmly welcomed by the dinner guests. As the cards were distributed, guests said, "This could not have come at a better time," "I am so grateful; I really need to buy food," and simply, "Thank you so much!"

# Check it out!

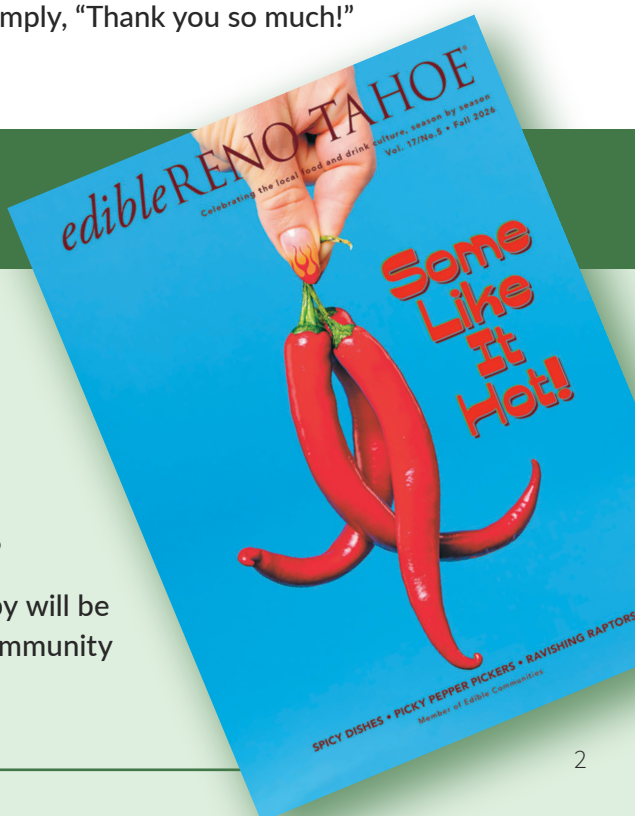
**Bread & Broth featured in regional publication**

Bread & Broth is featured in the Fall 2026 edition of ***edible*** **Reno-Tahoe** magazine. The article, "A Fight Against Hunger," tells the story of our programs, from Monday meals and Second Serving to the weekend food bags for local students, and includes photographs of many of our volunteers.

As our communications chairperson Beth Wallace put it in the article: "We really hope that we're not just feeding people but feeding them *well*."

You may find the magazine at some local eating establishments, and a copy will be available to browse in both the Grace Hall kitchen and the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church kitchen. Stop by and take a look!

*Read the full story online:* A Fight Against Hunger



## Final Free Farmers Market to be Held on October 8th

The last of five Summer Free Farmers Markets will be held in the St. Theresa parking lot on Thursday, October 8th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This drive-through event will feature fresh produce, meat, and non-perishable food items.

Between 70 and 100 families each month have received fresh vegetables, fruit, meat and essential grocery items from the Free Farmers Market since May. For many, this is their only access to fresh produce.

This event is co-hosted by the El Dorado Food Bank. This summer, these events have been supported by volunteers from and financially supported by Bread & Broth, the Marcella Foundation, and the Kiwanis Club of Tahoe. Additional volunteer support has been provided by the Family Resource Center, Whole Foods, and employees from the city of South Lake Tahoe.

Many thanks to B&B Food Coordination Chairperson Roberta Strachan and her team for their assistance in coordinating these monthly activities!

## B&B 4 Kids/Tots Adds Zephyr Cove Elementary School to the Weekend Food Program

In Bread & Broth's efforts to serve all the children in the Lake Tahoe South Shore community, the B&B Advisory Board voted to provide weekend food bags to Zephyr Cove Elementary School beginning this September. Staff at the school site had approached Bread & Broth with the possibility of including the school because of its location within the Tahoe Basin. Cheryl Breitwieser and Christy Slocum, co-chairpersons of the B&B4Kids/Tots program, are working with volunteers to ensure bags can be delivered to the school site each week.

## Local Children Welcome B&B4Kids/Tots Weekend Food Bags

On Friday, September 4th, over 260 happy children left school with B&B4Kids/Tots School Weekend Food Program bags in hand, the first week of receiving bags for the 2026-2027 school year. In each bag, children were excited to find seven individual, kid-friendly meals, fresh fruits and vegetables, and nutritious snacks. These bags were delivered to students at all Lake Tahoe Unified School District sites as well as eight childcare centers.

The day before, twelve B&B4Kids/Tots volunteers packed the bags, each one excited to participate in feeding food insecure children in the community. Their enthusiasm was evident; when asked why they enjoyed packing each month, the overwhelming response was, "It's for the kids!" As Diane Martin, assistant lead for Week 1 shared, "I do this because I believe no children should go hungry." Jan Halpern-Segal added, "It is a privilege to serve the community with nutritious food."

In addition to the weekend food bags, over 1,200 nutrition bars are delivered to the schools each week. These bars are provided for children who come to school hungry or become hungry during the school day.

The program comes on the tail of the B&B4Kids Summer program which ran from June 26th through August 19th. Local children picked up food bags at Grace Hall while other children received the bags at childcare facilities in South Lake Tahoe. Over 2,000 bags were distributed over the nine-week summer break from school.

# Board News

**Experienced volunteer, new role**

## Bread & Broth Advisory Board Welcomes Jeanne Prestella

Jeanne Prestella, a South Lake Tahoe resident for 43 years, has joined the Bread & Broth Advisory Board as the new Monday Meal Cook Coordinator Chairperson. Jeanne's 50-year employment career has spanned from culinary, business management, accounting, finance, computers, and banking to now working as a realtor in both Nevada and California.

Jeanne's experience in the culinary field is extensive, starting as a teen in Ohio and leading to a variety of cooking and management positions, and as manager of many new restaurants in the area. She earned an associate degree in culinary science from LTCC, currently holds many food service certificates, and will be instrumental in the training of Bread & Broth's cooks.

Jeanne has been an active member of the community, participating in the Soroptimist International of Sierra Tahoe, and volunteering for Mt. Tallac School, the American Youth Soccer Organization, Feed Tahoe, Lasagna Love, and many other local organizations.

Jeanne serves as co-lead on Week Two Monday Meal cooking team, and will serve as a liaison between all cooks and the Advisory Board. In addition, Jeanne will be responsible for developing and training present and new cooking staff as part of our Risk Management procedures adopted by the B&B Advisory Board.

# Risk Management Best Practices

**Where we stand**

Six months after Bread & Broth announced its "Risk Management Best Practices" guidelines in the March issue of the Spring Newsletter, four of the five new requirements have been successfully implemented.

### IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The majority of the Bread & Broth Advisory Board members and program Team Leads completed the Safe Haven training provided by the diocese of Sacramento's Safe Environment Department and have been fingerprinted through the LiveScan service administered by the SLT Police Department.

B&B volunteers who manage funds, purchase supplies, maintain financial records, or collect donations have completed credit checks administered by the Sacramento Diocese.

For the many volunteers who deliver B&B 4 Kids food bags to school/childcare centers, transport purchased food, pick up or deliver donated food for the Monday Meal and Second Serving, they have completed the B&B Volunteer Driver's form and have provided proof of a valid driver's license and sufficient liability insurance as required by the Sacramento Diocese.

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING: JANUARY 2027 LAUNCH

The fifth requirement, volunteer training, is currently in development. Training will consist of on-line modules tailored to each volunteer program or role, i.e., cooks, Monday Meal/Second Serving serving crews, B&B 4 Kids, Food Coordination, and others.

The on-line training will consist of informational modules followed by multiple-choice questions. The projected launch of volunteer training is scheduled for January 2027.

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the organization, a big debt of gratitude goes out to all the volunteers who have participated in the successful implementation of the first four of the five best practices. It is very much appreciated that so many volunteers recognize the importance of the steps that the Advisory Board is taking to ensure the protection of the organization, our donors, and those we serve.

## Cram-A-Hearse to Be Held On Saturday, October 24th

Bread & Broth's annual Cram-A-Hearse will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parking lot in front of **Grocery Outlet**, 2358 Lake Tahoe Blvd. in South Lake Tahoe.

Food items from the B&B 4 Kids wish list can be donated and "crammed" into a donated hearse to support the Halloween theme. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Volunteers will be dressed in Halloween costumes, and Halloween treats will be provided for children joining in on the fun.

All donated food and donations will be used to support the B&B 4 Kids' School Weekend Food program. This program provides weekend food bags for almost 200 children at all pre-K- 12th grade schools in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Zephyr Cove Elementary. The program also supports nearly 90 children attending eight local childcare centers serving low-income families.

**Please stop by Grocery Outlet on October 24th to shop for items on the B&B 4 Kids Wish List and help "cram" a hearse with nutritious food in B&B's efforts to feed the food insecure children of South Lake Tahoe.**

## Halloween at Heavenly Village on Saturday, October 31st

Heavenly Village's annual Halloween Trick or Treat event will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 3:00- 6:00 p.m. This event hosts over 50 candy stations provided by local businesses and local organizations. Live music, bounce houses and slides, a Witches Walk, and special appearances by the SLT Fire and Police Department are also featured throughout the afternoon.

Each year, Bread & Broth volunteers in full costume greet hundreds of children with candy and provide information to parents about the various B&B outreach programs.

Free parking is available in the Heavenly Village Garage from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Join in on the fun and stop by B&B's table for a fun afternoon experience.

**OCTOBER 28**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Grace Hall Kitchen Deep Cleaning

**Wednesday, October 28 · 9:00 a.m. – noon**

Each quarter, a team of volunteers deep cleans the Grace Hall kitchen to ensure a safe cooking and serving environment. Volunteers are always needed, even if you can only come for part of the morning. Contact Deep Cleaning Lead Janet Blumberg at blumbergsinbox@gmail.com.

**ABOUT BREAD & BROTH**

Bread & Broth is an all-volunteer ministry of St. Theresa Catholic Church, dedicated to easing hunger on the Lake Tahoe South Shore. With over 270 volunteers and a growing range of food outreach programs, Bread & Broth serves children, families, and individuals facing food insecurity throughout our community.