

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen averaged 4490 meals per month throughout the first three quarters of 2010. This represents 221 people per day being served a hot, nutritious meal each day, five days per week at no cost to them. The approximate cost of that meal for each person breaks down to \$1.35 per person/per day. These costs take into account utilities, salaries of two staff members, and any operational supplies that may be required in the coordination of the meal.

The last quarter of the year reflects some variances to the averages. This is due to having observed during the third quarter that people entering Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen (ODBSK) were permitted to get one, two, or three trays during their time there. Trays were assembled in the kitchen by volunteers with proportionate amounts of food that were similar in quantity and size: entrée to vegetable to fruit to dessert. A person eating the entire tray might be content, but someone else may want a second or even a third tray. They would obtain that tray and in watching them we noted that they would eat the second helping of entrée and discard the remaining fruits and vegetables. They might eat the dessert or keep it to take home with them. A third person may get a third tray and repeat the actions observed with the entrée.

Therefore, we concluded that what they really desired was more entrée. So, as of October 1, 2010 we tripled the portion of entrée on each tray to fill that section of the tray, while keeping the portions of vegetables and fruits to the original size as before. The outcome was reduced garbage waste of vegetables and fruits; reduced usage of water in washing trays repetitiously; better control of our inventory without waste; less gas consumption in using hot water to wash trays; more protein to the people needing protein vs. carbohydrates.

Thus, our averages for the last quarter of the month reflect a truer count of trays being served. Our monthly average was 3747 per month, and the daily average was 176 trays. Therefore our average cost per person would be \$1.70 each to feed them a complete meal. The range for those served runs from just over 100 people at the beginning of the month to well over 250 trays towards the last week of each month.

The building of ODBSK is owned in full, having been purchased with the proceeds of the sale of the property located previously on E. North St. when sold to Lima City Schools for the building of Lima Senior High School. The vehicle used by the kitchen for pick-ups and deliveries is owned by the Kitchen as well. There are no other encumbrances within the organization. In holdings there are some certificates of deposit as a means of assets should they be needed. Monetary donations from churches, foundations, individuals, and corporate entities provide what is needed towards operations. Food donations obtained at little or no cost provide for our meals. A freezer full of meat in various forms has been predominately donated from meat processing businesses; beef farmers; unclaimed surplus turkeys from St. Rita's Medical Center giving of turkeys to employees; and various other sources of meat.

Our greatest expenses have been utilities (gas; electric; and water) as we operate each day of the work week. Additionally, we have two full time employees who work beyond 40 hours each

week at a rate of pay that is just above the minimum hourly wage and yet within the poverty range of yearly earnings. At the same time there is no opportunity to offer a benefits package of any kind. It is a labor of love and commitment to what is found in Colossians 3:12-17.

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Paul offered a strategy to help us live for God day to day: 1) imitate Christ's compassionate, forgiving attitude; 2) let love guide your life; 3) let the peace of Christ rule in your heart; 4) always be thankful; 5) keep God's Word in you at all times; and 6) live as Jesus Christ's representatives. This embodies our desire for all who enter the doors of Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen to adopt as their attitude of service when volunteering.

Churches are the predominate source of support monetarily and through volunteer workforce. We have 25 local churches that all have set dates and determined days of the week and month that they come to either serve in the kitchen serving from the steam trays or they assist people in the dining room. Likewise, we receive assistance from youth groups, student interns, school faculty/staff people of local schools, and many other individuals. Their combined estimate of hours donated in service to the kitchen during 2010 totaled 2,612 hours, with a mean average of 104.5 hours per church, the median (one that falls in the middle of the range) average being 80 hours per church, and the mode (the most frequent occurring) being 72 hours per church. The range of hours served for each church was anywhere from 40 to 310 hours for the year.

These numbers are indicative of the dedication we have from local congregations and demonstrate what can be done as a body of believers we take notice of the degree and extent of what can be achieved when we unite to feed His sheep. Without them we would be like the body that no longer has the nose or mouth. We would cease to breath or have sustenance that would ensure we survive. We value each and every hour they donate and spend with us serving as God's hands and feet.

Monetarily, we strive to increase our base of financial need to include more than just congregational support from the local and county-area churches. We hope to expand and provide a source of mission focused opportunity for churches to be localized in their effort to reach those in their own community who need the uplifting and grace of God shown through their loving

actions. We desire to have light shine so brightly in their lives that they seek to find the source of that light which makes their sense of belonging lasting within those same congregations.

Our desire is to expand our funding to include foundations and grants that are available with the least amount of constraints or obligations to adhere to standards that limit our functioning as a faith-based organization that delivers outreach and support to the people of Lima/Allen County. These are the citizens of the city we have learned were part of a workforce; they were the children of families who came here to gain standing in a community that was strong in industry. They are a population of people who have roots and tradition within the community of being here, but now are struggling to find where they belong.

Hunger does not cease during any season; it does not take vacations; and it doesn't recognize holidays. Hunger exists fifty-two weeks of the year. Hunger comes in many forms. It comes with what we know to be physical hunger, but we see people who experience emotional hunger; social hunger; and spiritual hunger. Our purpose is to be there for people when they are experiencing their season of hunger regardless of the time of year it occurs.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen we thank you for your renewed and continued involvement in God's command to love our brothers and sisters alike.



Stephen Jenkins, LSW
Executive Director
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen