

November—2011



# Our Daily Bread of Bradenton, Inc.



*Humble stewards of other people's generosity and grateful courier of a stranger's kindness*

**KITCHEN 745.2992**

[www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org](http://www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org)

## President's Message

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The summer has been very busy with our meal count staying in the 250 range daily. The volunteers have been fantastic and we have been extremely fortunate with more and more people calling or coming in to see if they can help.

What an exciting time for Our Daily Bread! We finally have our website up and going and what a labor of love it has been for all those involved. Please visit it at [www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org](http://www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org). The testimonial page is what really touched all of us and if you have one you would like to share about your volunteering experience at Our Daily Bread we would like it have it to post sometime in the future.

We are going to continue to mail our newsletter, but if you would now like to receive it electronically, please forward us your email address and we will set it up!

We are going to have our "Seven Days of Christmas" starting on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> running through December 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again this year wonderful groups of volunteers will distribute much needed items to our clients including underwear, socks, blankets, gloves, hats, toiletries, T-shirts and toys for the children. This is a very special time of year for both our clients and volunteers. I am sure we will be posting some pictures of the wonderful week's events on our new website.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner and Christmas fast approaching, we at Our Daily Bread would like to wish you and your families a blessed holiday season and may the New Year bring you wonderful health and happiness.

God Bless all of you for your help throughout the years

*Mark E. McLaughlin*

**The mission of Our Daily Bread is to provide for the nutritional needs of the poor and needy of our community in the context of compassion and affirmation of their human worth as children of God.**

# NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform both volunteers and supporters of the activities and happenings at Our Daily Bread. Please address your comments and suggestions to Bob Eikill.

## OUR STAFF

Coach – Bob Eikill - Volunteer  
 Kitchen Manager – Penny Goethe

## WORKERS

Kirk Goethe      Brandon Williams  
 John Green      Mike Durrance  
 Cord Bigham

## SPECIAL THANK YOUs

**We are grateful for each dollar of financial support we receive, we try to be stewards of your generosity. In this newsletter we only have limited space to acknowledge the gifts we receive and do send thank you notes to each donor. Our base support is from churches, individuals, community groups, businesses, estates, trusts, schools, and county government.**

Roser Memorial Community Church	Church of the Annunciation
Westminster Presbyterian	Christ Episcopal Church
Harvest United Methodist	Harvey Memorial Community Church
Manatee Unitarian Universalist	Christ Church of Longboat Key
Hope Lutheran	St. Bernard Guild
Kirkwood Presbyterian	Trinity United Methodist Church
Our Lady of Queen of Martyrs	First United Methodist Church

Forney Engineering	RIK Electric Inc
Stillinger Charitable Trust	Southeast High School
Windmill Manor Men’s Club	Empty Nesters Club Lakewood Ranch
Crop Walk Church World Services	Manatee County Community Services
Marion Ruf Memorial Fund	Taylor Family Foundation
Costello Family Foundation	Mary Blake Trust Redeemer Lutheran Church
Worshippers at Vespers Freedom Village	

## SPECIAL THANK YOU’S

Kenneth Alonso	Mary Beth Gorman	Jim and Kathy Valente
Joann Allen	Mary Lane	James Wiese
Carol Bergs	Peg & Mark McLaughlin	Leroy Williams Exxon Mobil Foun
Donna & Graham Bergquist	Barry Moffatt	
Mary Ann Bozetti	Marguerite Thompson	
Richard & Loretta Golding	Mary Tyler	
Paul Drumney	Gregory Porges	Carol Whitmore

# ***PENNY'S PANTRY KITCHEN REPORT***



I would like to welcome back the winter volunteers, and say thank you to all the summer volunteers. We had a very busy summer. The kitchen is running very nicely, the staff works very hard to keep it looking good. It's that time of year to start planning for the holidays. I find myself in a bit of a bind, I have plenty of turkeys but I am short on everything that goes with them.

I am seeing a lot of new faces in the dining room. Most are young families with small children, not as many of the regulars, but our numbers are still up to close to 300 a day. Thank you for your endless support.

Meals prepared during a typical week:

Monday—Hot dogs, baked beans, green and fruit salad

Tuesday—Pork stew, green and fruit salad

Wednesday—Chicken and noodles, green and fruit salad

Thursday—Chili, green and fruit salad

Friday—Shepherd's Pie, green and fruit salad

Saturday—Leftovers, green and fruit salad

Sunday—Chicken, mixed vegetables, green and fruit salad

Penny!



## **THE HISTORY OF "OUR DAILY BREAD"**

Planning of Our Daily Bread began in 1983 when the need for Lunch Room for the poor and homeless in Bradenton became more and more apparent at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop. Increasing numbers of people were asking for food as well as clothes, and were being given a "brown bag" of cookies, peanut butter crackers and beverage and then were sent into the parking lot to eat it. Father James Nugent, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Bradenton, presented his dream for a lunch room to the parishioners and a small group of Secular Franciscans came forward to offer their help. Soon they were joined by other parishioners as well and SVDP offered their back room of their furniture store as a site for the lunch room. It took many more hours of planning, applying to the City fathers for permission, and recruiting volunteers. After a couple of bitter disappointments when it looked as if approval would not be forthcoming, the ice jam was broken and the necessary OK was received from the Council and Health Department, although only on a provisional basis for six months at first.

In May, 1984, the Sacred Heart Lunch Room was opened – with four volunteers, and three customers that first day! Only word of mouth has been used to publicize the lunch room, and growth was slow at first, but as the years have gone by, the census has swelled tremendously. The meals started at first very simply – a sandwich and a bowl of canned soup that was heated in the lunch room itself. The lunch room was open only for five days a week in the beginning.

In the second year the number of meals tripled. Followed by the third year doubling the second. Steadily grown until today reaching the astonishing number of 93,000 meals yearly. Holidays became very busy with 400 meals served on both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A change in the menu became necessary to meet the nutritional needs of the customers. Often the meal served at Our Daily Bread is the only meal they will eat all day. Volunteers learned to use whatever food they could gather, making casseroles and desserts at first. Later growing to the wonderful four course meals served today.

The composition of the population receiving service from ODB has changed dramatically over the years. The first targeted population was composed mainly of African-American homeless men, a few homeless women and no children. In a few years, the news spread, we began to see not only the homeless, but also the underemployed, or underpaid workers, and family groups with children, both African American and Caucasian. The last group to come to ODB has been migrant farm workers and their families who depending on whether or not it is harvest time, constitute between 33% and 60% of the clients. This applies not only to the congregate meals but also to the Outreach services.



"I was sick with a pulmonary virus for three weeks and couldn't work – that put me behind in my rent and now I am facing eviction." Scenarios like this are becoming more and more common at the Community Coalition on Homelessness as the effects of our down economy and lack of employment opportunities continues to wreck havoc in our community. The Coalition has had funding thanks to Season of Sharing and a federal homeless prevention program that helped individuals and family with rent and utility payments so they could remain in their housing. But now, we have had up to 120 applications for assistance with funding to help only a tiny fraction of that. We continue to seek sources of funding to help with rental assistance as this is the largest unmet need currently.

When people can't get rental assistance, they eventually get evicted and generally end up in cars, with friends or relatives, or possibly right out on the street. The Open Door Day Resource Center provides these people with basic need services that enable them to survive day to day, while also providing services that help get people back on their feet. Applications for assistance with obtaining Florida Identification cards are up since people need legal identification in order to get employment or access benefits. As more and more individuals and families slide into poverty and homelessness, the demand for services at the Open Door increases. This is illustrated by the fact that the Open Door had a record setting 180 people as new clients in the month of August – and that is with new clients being processed only 4 days a week!

Our medical and dental clinic is busy as ever and has added some new services for clients that make providing their primary care more efficient and effective. One of these services is conducting an electrocardiogram on site rather than having to send clients out to have this critical test done. Thanks to a grant from the Manatee Community Foundation we were able to purchase the most up to date hardware and software for this test which enables physicians and medical students to have immediate access to test results. For the majority of our clients, transportation is an issue, so this is truly a valued service.

If you have not had the opportunity yet to visit the One Stop Center, please make it a priority! We are happy to arrange tours of the facility which includes learning about programs operated by the Coalition, Our Daily Bread, and our community partners!

*Adell Erozer*

Executive Director

# **Hard-pressed charities need our help...**

By Ted Kaufman

Our charitable organizations need our help. The vast majority of them have become very efficient, well-administered organizations, but they are still faced with an almost impossible situation.

It is difficult to do your job when you are faced with a flood of new clients, fewer contributions from foundations and individuals, and reduced government funding at all levels.

These organizations are being overwhelmed by the scale of the tragedy caused by the economic crisis.

Listening to the discussion and debate about the health of our economy, it seems like there is little real understanding of the plight of millions of Americans who are suffering like they never have before. The buck stops with these organizations that have to deal with the human results of the Great Recession.

We talk about lost jobs, but it is hard to appreciate the size and significance of what has been happening.

The first factor is that so many people are in trouble; many have tumbled from the middle class to poverty.

Here are just a few statistics to demonstrate the historic size of the problem.

The employment-to-population ratio for all Americans from 2007-2010 dropped faster than for any similar period since the government began tracking the data in 1948.

Only slightly over half of young adults between 16 and 29 are working –down from over two-thirds in 2000; it's the lowest since the end of World War II.

Those age 65 and older are having to give up on retirement. About 1 in 6 are now working and delaying their retirement – the highest level since the 1960's.

Finally, more than 46 million Americans are living in poverty, and the details, if possible, are even worse. Of these, more than 26 million are children under the age of 18.

All this ends up at the door of charitable organizations who are trying to help the individuals and families with very difficult problems.

Over the years, they have learned how to deal with all kinds of people with all kinds of problems, but it is difficult when a flood of new people in need shows up, in many cases as a last resort.

The second part of the problems is that while their numbers of clients are increasing, their funding from private resources is shrinking. The Giving USA Foundation says, "Our revised estimates show that 2008 and 2009 saw the largest drop in giving in more than 40 years as a result of the Great Recession, exceeding previous recession's impact on giving."

The final problem is the decline in their other major sources of funding from state, local and federal government.

There is no doubt that the increase in clients, the decrease in philanthropy and the cuts in the federal government are causing a humanitarian disaster.

It is time for all of us, regardless of our political persuasion, to consider what we can do to help our charitable organizations survive this onslaught.

Maybe it is to volunteer or make a contribution, or call on your elected officials for help.

Americans who have fallen into poverty because of the recession deserve better.

Fortunately, we have many competent, well-organized charities ready to help. They need your help.

## Coach's Note

I want to thank Mark and Graham for filling in during the summer months. Mark took time every day to stop in, make deposits and pay the bills and payroll. Without his efforts everything would have come to a standstill. He also kept the board informed via email and had a meeting in August. Graham Bergquist made his round of the related churches and merchants in June and then again in October. His efforts have drawn us closer in our working relationships with both the churches and food stores. Contributions are up over 10% from our supporting church organizations related to his efforts. Thank you both for your time and talent.

I have a story to tell of how we are led by the Lord, through prayer, specifically relating to the purchase of a refrigerated van. Back in 2006 you may recall that Publix, our major food supplier at the time, established a company policy because of a lawsuit on the East Coast that required us to have refrigerated van to continue being able to pick up meats and perishables. Mary was without food supplies and cash donations were down. Our prayers were answered in many ways such as Sweetbay supplying our perishable food needs, increased donations and several positive newspaper articles. Ripples, Inc. gave us a large donation towards the purchase of a refrigerated van. We were looking at refrigerated trucks and found that they were over \$70,000, but as crisis passed we put-off the purchase. This past spring, the question of transporting perishables came up again with both Sweetbay and Publix. Again, our prayers were answered when we found the type of refrigerated van we needed at a price we thought reasonable, which was less than half of what we were looking at in 2006. The whole process spanned over five years, but through turning over our problems to the Lord, we were lead in the right direction.

We have been working on our website for a couple of years. Mark found a new volunteer who had experience in setting up and working with websites. The new site features a "Donate Now" button through PayPal is more interactive for visitors with new pictures, a new calendar, our newsletter and testimonials. It will be updated on a regular basis. Please check out our new site at [www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org](http://www.ourdailybreadofbradenton.org).

Thank you, thank you to all of volunteers and financial supporters. If you have a friend or relative looking for something to do, bring them along next time you come in. Have a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

*Bob*

**OUR DAILY BREAD  
P.O. BOX 9544  
BRADENTON, FL 34206**



**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GREATLY NEEDED**

**Make checks payable to: *Our Daily Bread of Bradenton, Inc.***

**Mail to: Box 9544**

**Bradenton, FL 34206-9544**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for your generosity**