



Spring 2011

Dorothy Day House

Each day folks at Dorothy Day House rise before the crack of dawn to prepare breakfast. Our volunteer base and two employees work hard to bring a warm meal to the folks at the Berkeley Men's Shelter in the Veterans building and to others at Trinity Church. Most evenings each month, dinners are prepared and served by various East Bay groups at the Men's shelter. During the winter, DDH runs the Storm Shelter at First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Dorothy Day House Basics

Dorothy Day House folks believe in the basics. Each week, George and Brando and others buy 50-pound bags of oats, grits, and cream of wheat, cases of large eggs, gallons of milk, coffee, and some very simple condiments. Our breakfasts are cooked in the kitchen at the Veterans Building in downtown Berkeley, served in the shelter and to anyone who walks into a community room close to People's Park. In total, we feed about 200 folks/day. All this work is done by our stable of ~65 volunteers, who are coordinated by two half-time (and way underpaid) employees. Our volunteers are the basic backbone of the operation, showing up for the first shift at 5:30AM and the second at 6:30AM. They arrive rain or shine, cook with determination and comraderie, and serve with true compassion and respect. This is what keeps the DDH spirit alive each and every day.

What we serve is extremely healthy – just basic cereals chock full of fiber and warmth, hard-boiled eggs, coffee, milk, and donated bread (the great Berkeley kind) buttered and warmed in our ovens. Coffee (sometimes donated by Peet's these days) and bread (donated by Semifreddi's, Acme, and Daily Bread these days), help alleviate the burden of the increased costs. However, our budget has increased in the past years, as all food prices have risen. Imagine the costs of buying just the basics for breakfast for 200 each day.

Weekly Food and Supply Expenses:

Oats (1 50-pound bag)	\$28.56
Grits (1 50-pound bag)	\$12.75
Cream of Wheat (1 50-pound bag)	\$47.57
Jelly	\$26.74
Eggs (5 cases @ 15-dozen)	\$88.20
Milk (60 gallons)	\$207.20
Peanut Butter	\$29.84
Margarine	\$85.60
Paper products (napkins, cups, etc.)	\$200.00
Bread -> donated by Semifreddi's, Acme Bakery, and Daily Bread	
Coffee (sometimes donated by Peet's)	\$200.00
Cleaning materials	\$ 25.00
Weekly Total	\$949.46

The Basics

continued from page 1

In total, we spend ~\$950/week on food and supplies; this adds up to ~\$4,000/month. Food amounts to the largest item in our budget, and it is also the least adjustable. We try not to cut back on the basics since it is at the core of our purpose.

We have 2 outside volunteers that pick up bread every week, one from SemiFreddi's and the other from Acme Bakery. In addition, we have just started again receiving bread from Daily Bread, which collects day old bread from many bakeries throughout Berkeley and Oakland. Daily Bread has been a long-standing (~20 year!) part of the supply chain for DDH. Also we usually get 10 to 30 loaves of bread at the food bank each week. Of course, our problem with bread is that it will only keep a couple of days before it starts to get moldy. We are getting day-old bread, so that we do not know how much we will get each delivery. It depends on how well the bread sold the previous day. It is so sad that we end up throwing out molded bread one day and then have to purchase it the next day, but there is not much that can be done about this.

90% of our delivered bread comes in loaves and has to be cut by hand. Most of the bread from the food bank is already sliced.

Pacific Bay Coffee House in Walnut Creek has found out that I work with the homeless and they donate left over pastries 3 or 4 times a week. Our guests love the pastries as an alternative to bread.

Foundations

We are grateful for the support of the following foundations:

- Bank of America Foundation
- City of Berkeley
- Firedoll Foundation
- Change Happens Foundation
- Walter & Elise Haas Fund
- Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund
- The Thomas J. Long Foundation
- Bernard Osher Foundation
- Crescent Porter Hale Foundation
- Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons, Greenwood, Harley & Oberman Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- May & Stanley Smith Trust
- SanDisk Corporation Fund/SVCF
- Tides Foundation
- West Davis & Bergard Foundation
- Zalec Familian & Lilian Levinson Foundation

We pay for all this through a combination of funding sources, including individual donations, money from the City of Berkeley, and foundation grants. These days, all our sources of funding are tightening due to the tough economy. The City of Berkeley is decreasing our allocations by 3% in 2012 and then another 3% in 2013. Grant funding is down from \$74,000 in 2009/2010 to ~\$46,000 in 2010/2011.

From the beginning, our monthly and bi-monthly pledge donors have been the backbone of our organization. When we have run low on funding, we have been able to count on those who send us regular checks. And in these tough economic times, when our funding from grants and the City of Berkeley is dropping, and when food costs are rising significantly, we are endeavoring to increase our regular support base.

“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on.”

- Dorothy Day

Volunteer Stories

Sometimes the stories that stick with you are the ones you might rather not tell, since they are negative exceptions.

However, I was just thinking about two UC volunteers we had I think last spring -- Natalie and Sophie. When they showed up the first time for an early morning shift, looking exhausted like most college-age volunteers, I figured that, like many young volunteers, they'd appear once or twice and then drift away. But they stuck with it through graduation, and it was great to see them awaken to the humanity of the people on the streets, people they probably had been passing by daily for several years before. To me, that's one wonderful impact of volunteering at DDH -- you come to learn at a deep level the obvious but so often overlooked fact that all those folks we walk by on the streets every day are individuals with history and dignity and future, just like the rest of us. It meant a lot to me that just before Natalie and Sophie graduated and left for their homes (San Jose and Australia, respectively) they talked about how much they'd learned just about being good citizens and fellow humans. Sure, we feed folks every day. Along the way though, we also feed ourselves as well, sometimes in unexpected ways. In this case, folks got fed, a couple of college kids learned a lot, and other older volunteers and I got the satisfaction of mentoring a couple of the next generation of volunteers.

- Dan R, volunteer (6 years)

I felt more integrated into the Berkeley community once I began volunteering at Dorothy Day House. I had recently moved into town and found it difficult to make friends and feel connected to the community. So I began to volunteer and in doing so, familiarized myself with the people of Berkeley and some of the realities they face. Above all, I found meaningful connections with people from all walks of life who shared a belief in communal responsibility. I learned a lot and I feel like my volunteer experience restored my faith in people, making me a more balanced person. Sometimes we can get lost in our busy schedules and obligations, losing sight of what makes us thrive. And I feel like volunteering, interacting with people, helping people out, brings the humanity back into our lives.

- Cecily Wild, volunteer

Our Regular Small Business Donors

Consider patronizing our regular small business donors, who help us in providing significant portions of the meals we serve.

- Acme Bread Company
- Alameda Community Food Bank
- Berkwood Hedge School
- Polly Kerr--The Burrito Factory
- The Cheeseboard Collective
- Mechanic's Bank
- Armando at Starbuck's (Shattuck)
- Nadia at Peets (Telegraph)
- Peets Coffee & Tea
- Semifreddi's Handcrafted Bread
- Society of St. Martin de Porres

Seeking Regular/Pledge Donors

From the beginning, our monthly and bi-monthly donors have been the backbone of our organization. When we have run low on funding, we have been able to count on those who send us regular checks. And in these tough economic times, when our funding from grants and the City of Berkeley is dropping each year (see article inside) and when food costs are rising significantly, we are endeavoring to increase our regular support base.

Please consider a regular donation of \$10, \$25, whatever you feel comfortable with. While, these seem like small amounts, they add up over the years, and at Dorothy Day House, we manage to do everything on a shoestring budget. With only 2 half-time employees, and a stable of 65 volunteers (including the Board), we put these donations into food. And we buy the basics, prepared by volunteers, and served with compassion and respect, which is really what we are about.

Please use the enclosed envelope and consider a regular pledge. We'll send you a reminder each month or two (if you like). The homeless and close-to-homeless of Berkeley will eat better.

Goodsearch.com

Consider using entering Dorothy Day House, Berkeley, CA on www.goodsearch.com. We get a small amount of money for every search you run!

Dorothy Day House

Catholic Worker
P.O. Box 12701
Berkeley, CA 94712
510-466-5553



NON-PROFITORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 475