

Bread in the Front Yard

Southern Living is a widely read lifestyle magazine aimed at readers in the Southern United States featuring recipes, house plans, gardening tips and a variety of information about the South's culture and travel. It is the largest regional lifestyle publication in the United States, and is a unit of *Time Inc.*

It shows up monthly in the Hunter household. One of its stories was about Gwen Burris, who wanted to help the needy in her community, but thought she would have to wait until she had lots of money and extra time.

Then she heard about a giveaway program run by the local grocery chain. She thought if that company's employees could do it, so could she.

Although still harboring some doubts, Burris just started handing out bread. Admittedly, her four children thought she was crazy. But with quiet commitment, Burris began what has become her daily acts of good will.



Six days a week, Burris – with the help of her husband and children – sets up several folding tables in her front yard and props up a hand-lettered sign reading *Free Bread*. Anywhere from 20 to 60 people pull up and receive bread, bagels, rolls and, on special occasions, pastries.

Burris has gotten to know many of those she helps, and is moved by their stories. Some are just temporarily out of work, while others have too many children to feed. One woman on a fixed income always brings flowers from her garden in return for the bread.

Whenever unfamiliar faces arrive, Burris tries to offer an encouraging word and help lift their spirits. She says that the rewards of these small deeds far exceed the inconvenience and financial sacrifice.

Many people would like to be more generous, but feel too busy, too strapped for cash, or too tired to get started.

Burris is proof that you can overcome such excuses. Even simple acts of good will can make a big difference.

It is a principle learned – and practiced – daily by the associates of Life Care and Century Park.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter