

Summit's Power Lunch Club launches 3rd Annual Cookbook Fundraiser to benefit Soup Angels & Meals on Wheels

The Summit community brings together some of their favorite dessert recipes in support of two local organizations with a mission to feed others in need.

NYACK, NY, UNITED STATES, November 23, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Power Lunch Club at



This collaboration is a perfect fit that provides us with wonderful volunteers to deliver meals and teaches the students who deliver valuable life skills and the value of doing good for others."

Meals on Wheels Directors, Sharon Martini and Maureen Nicolich Summit School began with the mission to brainstorm and share ideas to create school-based businesses and service-learning ventures that bring opportunity, positivity and generosity to the community. One of those ideas was the cookbook fundraiser, and now in its third year it has proven to be a remarkable success.

A note inside the cookbook from Summit School at Nyack's Principal, Deborah Dolan, reads:

"In the pages of this book, you will find dessert recipe favorites from members of our community. We hope that, once again, sharing these recipes will prove to be a wonderful and sweet way for us to connect during this

upcoming holiday season!"

The proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to <u>Meals on Wheels of Rockland County</u> and <u>Soup Angels in Nyack</u>. Our relationship with Meals on Wheels of Rockland County and the Soup Angels in Nyack goes back many years. By volunteering to serve and deliver meals, we have been able to create opportunities for students to develop valuable life skills by doing good for others.

Below you can read our interviews with Meals on Wheels Directors, Sharon Martini and Maureen Nicolich, and Soup Angels co-founder, Katherine Rife, to learn more about what makes them special.

Q: If you were waiting in line at Rockland Bakery and you overheard someone talking about Meals on Wheels, what would you expect to hear?

MOW: "We were having such a hard time getting to my mom's house every day to make sure she had fresh meals to eat. Then we started her on Meals on Wheels. The food they bring is so fresh and Mom loves how they taste! The meals are nutritious and the doctor says Mom's health is already improving. She has incredible volunteers who check in with her when they bring her food and they make her feel really special. The best part is I know if they ever think something is off or if she doesn't come to the door, Meals on Wheels is going to call me right away. It's been such an incredible help to the whole family!"

Q: What could be something they may not say, but you would want them to know?

MOW: They might not know about all of the extra things that Meals on Wheels is doing (or could do) for their loved one. Volunteers don't just bring food and comfort, they bring special add-ons like Caring Cards and Crafts (for holidays or just because!), Blizzard Boxes (so that there is a supply of shelf stable food in the house in case of emergency), Miles of Smiles bags (to provide supplies that promote dental health) and can even bring a supplement of food for the pets in the house.

Q: Why does Meals on Wheels exist?

MOW: Everything for Meals on Wheels comes down to our mission to enhance the wellness of Rockland's older adults and their families by providing services that support their safety, independence and health. Every program or action is planned and executed with our mission as the guiding force. The COVID-19 pandemic has truly shown how incredibly vital our services are to seniors in the community.

Q: Who are the Soup Angels?

SA: Soup Angels is a non-sectarian, non-discriminatory organization of like-minded volunteers currently offering "To Go" nutritious, freshly-prepared hot meals and a large food pantry to anyone in our area in need of a meal, no questions asked.

Q: What inspired the creation of the Soup Angels?

SA: Three women who all lived in Nyack and who were volunteers at Sunday Supper soup kitchen at Living Christ Church in Nyack saw the need for more food assistance in Nyack. One of the women, Kathleen, had been homeless herself and wanted to create a place where people who were hungry could have a delicious home-cooked meal served with respect. Kathleen said that she and others "want to be treated with dignity, just like everyone else wants". We decided that we would serve meals to our "guests" (as they are called) at tables with cloth tablecloths set with silverware, china, flowers, candles and music. We were three women who wanted to help. Kathleen was also a chef, Katie was a social worker, and I was a teacher. You don't have to be skilled in a particular field, you just need to care about something a great deal.

Q: Volunteering can be a big part of any child's experience. Why do you think it's important?

SA: It's ok that when you volunteer to do something that appeals to you that it not only helps the other person, animal or cause that you believe in, but it also makes you feel good. My father took me to help drop off meals for a family new to Canada (where I lived) and I saw how much our gift meant to them and also realized that there were many people who didn't have enough to eat. Then my mother had me help make sandwiches for homeless people, and I saw that I could, with my own hands, help in a very direct way. WHAT you do to volunteer is up to you, but remember that it will feel good when you help.

MOW: Volunteering makes a big impact in the community and for the people we serve, but most importantly, it makes an impact on those who are doing good deeds. When a teenager volunteers, they may not initially understand the effect they have on another person's life and may only be fulfilling an obligation of some kind. However, once they spend time delivering a route or packaging meals or talking with a senior over the phone, they start to see first-hand the impact they have. Helping another human being just makes us feel good and there is so much need around us. It is important to understand that we are all connected and it doesn't take much effort to make someone else's day a whole lot better.

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