

FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Meals on Wheels aims to Pie It Forward for Thanksgiving

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For the fourth year, **Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches** is “Paying it Forward” with its Thanksgiving campaign, **Pie It Forward**.

“There are two things you must have at Thanksgiving. Pie is one,” said **Kelly Ring**, spokeswoman for Meals on Wheels, the organization that delivers hot meals to seniors and others who are homebound.

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More than 40 bakers — the Pie Masters — from notable restaurants, hotels, country clubs and professional kitchens will be baking four types of pie — classic pumpkin, pecan, classic apple, and new this year, gluten-free apple.

As always, there’s a provision for those who want a zero-calorie pie: a virtual pie. A \$25 donation lets you give to your choice of teams, and will provide five meals to Meals on Wheels seniors.

Several top chefs in the area, such as Chef **Zach Bell** of **Addison Reserve Country Club** in Boca Raton and **Marcello Fiorentino** of **La Sirena** in West Palm have participated since the start of the program. **Howley’s, Table 26, Sandy James Catering, Duffy’s Sports Grill** and a dozen or more country clubs are churning out pies by the dozens for the charity.



The culinary students at **Lake Worth High School** are getting in on the act, and recently toured the **Jack Scalisi Produce** facility, where they got a lesson in produce distribution. The longtime family company in West Palm Beach donated apples and other foods to make the pies the students will be baking.

“We expect to sell more than 3,000 pies this year,” said Ms. Ring. That number will make it possible for Meals on Wheels to deliver between 15,000 to 16,000 hot meals midday to its clients.

“For most of our clients, our volunteers are the only people the seniors see on a daily basis. It’s more than just a meal, it’s human interaction, it’s a wellness check, it’s a human connection they may not otherwise have,” said Meals on Wheels director **Maura Nelson**.

The nonprofit organization receives no government money, but relies on grants and the generosity of the community through donation and sponsorship. Most of their workers are volunteers who put together the meals and deliver them five days a week around noontime. Pie It Forward is one of their largest fundraising efforts yearly. **Bank of America** and **United Technologies** are this year's sponsors for the campaign.

The pies are sold for \$25 each through teams of sellers in a friendly competition, and distributed in refrigerated trucks Tuesday, Nov. 20, in Jupiter and West Palm Beach to the buyers, thanks to the **Bush Brothers Provision Company** and Jack Scalisi Produce.

Selling teams range from large corporate sellers such as **Bank of America** and **Jones Foster**, to civic and community groups such as **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** to **Right at Home Palm Beach**, and individuals who've formed with groups of friends like the **Newsies**, or **Peace of Pie** teams.

Corporate buyers are key: With a minimum of 25 pies, each company who buys to distribute to their clients or employees feeds 125 people.

Individuals who buy real pies can pick them up Thanksgiving morning at the **Palm Beach County Convention Center** in West Palm Beach, or **Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium** in Jupiter.

Pie orders are taken through Nov. 15.

For information about the Pie It Forward Campaign or Meals on Wheels, and to order pies, go to their website at www.mowpie.org.