

Pasta News!

A quarterly newsletter of the North Fork Community Kids' Pasta Project

April 2010

Vol 1, Issue 3

Why I love KPP

by Fynn Blake, age 10



I like Kids' Pasta Project because I can serve the community by donating money to different causes. I have been working with KPP since day one. I have worked all the positions but my favorite one is being a waiter because I get to communicate with the customers and serve them. It makes me feel excited and I have learned a lot about working in a restaurant and gained confidence in myself.

It was very fun to serve members of my family when they came from Carbondale to have dinner for the Haiti dinner. The Haiti dinner was my favorite because there were two shifts in one night and I worked both shifts, one as a maitre d' and the other as waiter. We were able to raise \$650. This made me feel extremely proud because I was able to serve the community in Haiti instead of just the North Fork Valley. That is why I love the KPP.

Highlights of our first year

Since "opening our doors" over a year ago, KPP has served over 1,500 home made pasta dinners and donated over \$10,000 to community causes through the work of over a hundred volunteers. Most importantly, we have enjoyed and celebrated the community and learned a lot in the process. Here are a few things that are also of note:

- The BMW Rally in July , when we partnered with Mountain Harvest Festival to serve nearly 300 dinners
- The Bulldog Learning Center, so well facilitated by Chrissy Lingelbach
- The Recipe Development Class in which Gustavo and nine kids developed our pumpkin seed pesto
- The first KPP Building Bridges Service Award (see articles about the recipients below)
- The first KPP video, thanks to the very skillful and creative work of Hutman Media (Todd, David, Kevin and Adam)
- The Formation of the Youth Advisory Board (see information below)
- The first KPP song by Russ Chapman, and a rendition of American Pie by Alexander, Marcos and Marisa

"That bowl of pasta on the KPP logo represents food made and served with care. Inside that bowl, I also see a happy hum of work and learning. It's hard to believe it's only been a year!"

Serving Happy Meals

by Alexander Feldman, age 10

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KPP Video Premier!

Todd Sheets volunteered the services of his business, Hutman Media, to do the first Kids' Pasta Project video, which is now on youtube. Here's the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4O0WXR7hsCc>

Many thanks to Todd, Kevin, David and Adam for creating this exciting glimpse of our project and our valley!

Dinner Schedule

April 19
 Delta County Libraries Big Read

April 26
 North Fork Math & Science Center

May 3
 Creamery Arts Center

May 10
 Lamborn School



May 17
Benefit for individual for medical expenses

May 24
Girls on the Run

May 31
Pickin' Productions

June 7
Black Canyon Audubon Society

June 14
Delta County Adult Literacy ESL Program

Partner-Recipients

Hotchkiss Senior Center
KVNF Radio
CAWS
Valley Youth Orchestra
North Fork Vision HCP
NF Community Montessori School
North Fork River Improvement Association (NFRIA)
River Theatre
The Paonia Players
Slow Food Western Slope
The Blue Sage Center for the Arts
Delta County Recycling
Mountain Harvest Festival
Paonia Library
Family Court
Paonia Historical Society
Paonia Elementary School
Student Council
The Creamery Arts Center
Valley Organic Growers Association
Tri-County Resources
North Fork Math and Science Center
Spirit Wind Horse Rescue
Hotchkiss Library
Families Plus
Crawford Elementary
Pickin' Productions
Hotchkiss K-8
Partners
Hotchkiss Pool
Family Treatment Court
Hotchkiss Fire Department
Swift Water Rescue
Slow Food Western Slope

Jimmy Slater, KPP volunteer uncle, recently shared that KPP is important to him because he enjoys feeding people good food. He said, "Good food is a necessity of life. Kids should know that. It's as important as learning how to swim. Kids need to learn that they don't *have* to eat at McDonald's."

My Work Journal, a new publication for KPP volunteers to record, reflect and share!

My Work Journal the first KPP publication for volunteers to use to share and remember their work. This journal provides checklists for skills learned in each of the main work areas with room for reflections and comments and a final KPP certification at the end.

We will hand out the journals during National Volunteer Week, April 18-25. All KPP volunteers and others interested in becoming volunteers will have the opportunity to "interview" for a job with KPP (everyone is accepted as long as they agree to the guidelines). Interviews will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 20-23 from 3:30-5:30 at a location to be announced. Interviews are 20 minutes each.

Volunteers should contact us at kidspastaproject@gmail.com to schedule interviews! It will be an opportunity for us to listen to your ideas, availability and expectations and to make sure that we have clear lines of communications. We look forward to hearing from you!

First prize for the Kids Pasta Project Building Bridges Service Award goes to Paonia Library

by Emma Crane, age 12

Many good organizations do great work in Delta County and it was difficult to choose who should receive this award. But after reading through the responses of the organizations, we decided the following: Paonia Library is an incredible resource for our community. The library staff is very helpful, kind and encouraging. The library was initially afraid of moving from its downtown location, but now they know it was a good choice because the new library is a beautiful home of books. Thank you for the courage to move to the new location.

The Library empowers people by providing special skill in reading, theater, arts, writing, music, and history presentations. The library and its literature come alive when you walk through the doors. The best thing about the library is that it belongs to everyone and always remains free and open to everyone. Thanks for contributing to our whole community!

Editor's note: The Kids' Pasta Project offered the first Annual KPP Building Bridges Service Award at the dinner on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18. Partner-recipients were invited to apply for the award by addressing how they serve the community, empower individuals and build bridges in the community.

Tri-County Resources strengthens the community

by Serena Blake, age 12

Tri-County Resources strengthens the community by providing needs for women, children and men, such as food, shelter and clothing, and it helps them be and feel safe. It strengthens one person at a time and teaches how to live a life without violence for clients and children.

Some people who benefit from Tri-County give back to the community as a way of saying thank you. The clients of Tri County become a collective voice for those who live with people who don't treat them well. Tri County works closely with groups from judges in court to police to ministers.

A lot of people become involved with domestic violence and Tri County wants to help. Tri County reflects one of Martin Luther King's quotes: At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love." There is hope that all of these people will turn and learn to live safely and protect the ones they love.

Presenting the KPP Youth Advisory Board!

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) met for the first time this quarter. The fact that they gave up a Friday afternoon to meet demonstrates their dedication!

Following are the YAB officers: Casey Lingelbach, President; Marisa Edmondson, Treasure; Siena Podgorny, Secretary and Emma Crane, Publicity. (The position of Vice President is still to be determined.) Other members include Natalie Coats, Cara Littlefield, Noah Silverstein, Alexander Feldman, Fynn Blake, Serena Blake and Marcos Edmondson. Parent volunteer Chrissy Lingelback is supporting them in their work. Members of the KPP board will also serve as mentors for the YAB board officers.

YAB has already been making plans to introduce new lasagne items to the menu, including a gluten-free, dairy-free, meat-free option all in one! They will also be taking on the responsibility of reviewing applications for partner-recipients and establishing the dinner schedule.

The formation of the Youth Advisory Board is an exciting development that will help us increasingly consider ways to engage the kids in management, behind the scenes work and decision making.

Parents' Pasta Project?

by Jo Feldman

The essence of the Kids' Pasta Project mission is for children to serve their local community by preparing and selling freshly made healthy meals, with the profits going to local causes. Our motto is "kids serving community."

One day, I was speaking to Carrie Tentori, a new parent to the valley. I was telling her about the Kids' Pasta Project and invited her and her son to participate. She is home schooling her son and I commented that it would be a great way for him to meet other kids in the area. Without missing a beat, Carrie said "Yes! And this is something that I would love too. I'm looking forward to getting to know other parents in the valley as well."

I began thinking more about what KPP means to the parent volunteers. Although it's not stated in the Kids' Pasta Projects' formal mission statement, the program is a great experience not just for the kids, but for the parents too.

KVNF
Destination Imagination
Teams from Hotchkiss K-8

These organizations are the recipients of the net profits from Monday night pasta dinners, and they are often great partners as well as recipients! They publicize their dinners, enhance the experience and educate us about the work that they do for the community!
Thanks to all our partners!

In the Kitchen

by Aki Blake

I find myself in a very strange place.
How did I get here, in the kitchen?!

I have never been one to gravitate towards a kitchen.
I find it a chore and a bore to cook.
I find anything--I mean anything--to distract me from creating a meal.
So how did I find myself here in the kitchen?

The kids!
the amazing kids,
how they have taught me to enjoy the kitchen!
Every Monday night
I help them create a meal for a wonderful cause
and the kids of the North Fork Valley have made the kitchen not a bore
but a learning experience for all.

The kitchen is no longer a strange place!

Visit our website

www.kidspastaproject.org

Thanks to our
Sponsors!

The Kids' Pasta Project is a wonderful way to give. When I give I feel energized by the feeling that I'm doing something worthwhile. There's a great energy that arises during the Monday night dinners as everybody gets together for a common purpose. I feel a joyous connection with the children, the parents and the patrons as we share the experience of serving and giving to our community.

I interviewed other parent volunteers about what KPP means to them personally. Jo Edmondson, one of KPP's founding parents and Board members said "I love the camaraderie, the team work. Instead of meeting with friends to chat, it's a chance to learn what people are about in a business setting. I've known some of these people for years, but I didn't know them fully until I'd worked with them. You see a whole different level of how people think when you work with them so closely."

Greg Podgorny, a mainstay in the KPP kitchen said "I like the fun and the banter. It's the social interaction with people I don't always have the opportunity to be with!"

Months after I first invited Carrie Tentori to participate in KPP she says "Getting involved with KPP was so easy and we felt immediately welcomed. I love to be there with my son and for us to be a part of something that benefits our new community. Our lives would be very different had we not been fortunate enough to get hooked up with KPP so soon after moving here. We are very grateful!"

What KPP means to me

by Beth Skelton, KPP parent volunteer

The sound of knives on cutting boards, the whirl of the food processor, and laughter draw me into the kitchen at Scenic Mesa Ranch on Monday nights. From 3:30 to 9:00 we work as a team to prepare the sauce, support the kids making pasta and desserts, boil the noodles, and serve the community dinner.

My daughter pops into the kitchen with a happy greeting as she gets utensils to set the tables. I watch with pride as she trains younger volunteers on how to serve the guests and bus the tables. I'm so grateful that she has the opportunity to exercise leadership skills and take on adult responsibilities.

I'm honored to be part of this community project. When I'm working at the KPP, the hours fly by filled with busy activity and at the end I feel fulfilled, not exhausted. Thanks KPP for giving me the opportunity to work with you.

Clothing Sale raises more than money!

The KPP clothing sale held at the Blue Sage on March 25 wasn't just a fundraising event, it was an EVENT. This "Clothing Event" involved approximately 800 volunteer hours and countless community donations of clothing. In addition to Jo Feldman and Jo Edmondson and eight girls who planned the event, there were over a dozen other volunteers of all ages who helped with a variety of activities.

Over seventy women and two men attended the fashion show in the evening. Girls ages ten to twelve took clothes from the racks and created eclectic ensembles, some actually fashionable, some hilarious and many too big!

Most of the leftover clothing was donated to the CAWS thrift shop in downtown Paonia, and some went to The Rose in Hotchkiss. Some of the best children's clothing was donated to Tri-County Resources.

The \$1,250 that KPP raised through the First Annual KPP Clothing Event goes to the KPP

Scenic Mesa Ranch
Eleni and Rick Stelter
Hutman Media
ShadeScapes USA
Leadership Performance Solutions
Environmental Excavation
Elaine & Jim Brett
Nancy Murphy
Americorps/VISTA
Western Hardrock Watershed Team
Hardins Natural Foods
Mesa Winds Farm
Thistle Whistle Farm
Slow Food Western Slope
Delta Montrose Electric Association
Flying Fork Bakery
Earthbound Consulting
North Fork Family Dentistry
Fresh & Wyld Farmhouse
Paonia Farm & Home
Closer to Heaven Farm
Deb Cheesman
Peter McCarville
Jim Cazer
Liz Blake
Neela Bindu Farm
TLC Living Farm
J&J Orchards
Zephyros Farm & Gardens
Round Earth Farm
Western Colorado Food & Ag Council
Don's Market
Old River Trading Post
Ultra Mat
City Market
Ollie's Ice Cream
Bethlehem Wine Cellars
Liliputian Cellars
Leroux Creek Vineyards
Black Bridge Winery
Jack Rabbit Hill Vineyard
Back Country Coffee
North Fork Community
Montessori School
Bob McHugh
Natural Beauties
Norwex Enviro Products
North Fork Lifestyle Boutique
Ela Family Farms

contribution to the Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) program. KPP has been fortunate to have had two VISTA's this year through the Western Hardrock Watershed Team (WHWT) , one as a Summer Associate and one in a year-long position. Thank you, VISTA and WHWT! Thanks also to all of the members of our community and to the organizers who made the sale an EVENT!

Kids' Pasta Project receives 501 (c) (3)

by Elaine Brett, KPP Board Treasurer

After almost a year of a successful run of Kids" Pasta Project dinners, you might be asking "what's next for KPP?"

In the background this past year, we've been working on things to make KPP a solid, lasting non-profit organization . We took the time to organize a Board of Directors, to create Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and to incorporate in the State of Colorado. In December, we accomplished a major milestone - filing with the IRS for tax exempt 501 (c) (3) status. In March, KPP received notice from the IRS that our application was accepted. So now you might be saying, "why did you do that?"

Establishing ourselves as a legitimate organization will help KPP expand and grow. KPP may now request and receive grants from public and private sources like government agencies and foundations. In addition, individuals who donate to KPP can now claim federal income tax deductions - a nice reward for helping a a great community group!

The whole process will help KPP become a sustainable organization. We will now have to follow the rigorous rules of the IRS and be publicly accountable for the donations from our community.

But that's OK. This new status won't affect how the pasta dinners are done and it won't change what the kids are learning or how they contribute to the community. It certainly won't change the smiles on the kids' faces.

Slow Food brings sustainable agriculture to the table

by Jim Brett, KPP Board Secretary

On March 15 the Kids' Pasta Project hosted Slow Food Western Slope as a partner/recipient. Proceeds will be used to help a local producer, Mark Waltermire, attend the Slow Food 2010 Terra Madre Conference. Mark is an ideal candidate to attend this conference because he represents the principles this conference represents.

The Terra Madre conference is a gathering for sustainable food producers and farmers to connect and share their practices with others across the globe. Groups of land stewards, cooks, academics and students form the network, representing those who produce, sell, market, harvest, purchase, cook, promote and educate about sustainable food.

This biennial event has inspired a new framework for discourse on food and sustainability, one where ideas, strategies, partnerships and alliances prosper. Many delegates have come away inspired from the meeting, with a greater sense of the shared commonalities among the world's sustainable food producers, cooks and academics. They have returned to their farms, restaurants and universities with renewed dedication, empowered with the knowledge that they now belong to the international Terra Madre network.

Mark has been busy planting tomatoes and other produce for the Kids' Pasta Project and has offered to grow and what we need to reach the goal of making most of our food sources local! He has also generously donated in the past and is open to collaborating in many ways! He truly represents the spirit of the conference and rightfully deserves to attend.

Kids Pasta Project on Facebook

Check out the Kids' Pasta Project Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kids-Pasta-Project/>

Spread the word!
Post photos!
Join the discussions!

Enjoy five dinners & get the sixth one free!

Ask for a punch card next time you come to dinner.

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