



Dorothy's Kitchen in Salinas feeds the homeless with top chefs

UPDATED 10:12 AM PST Dec 08, 2015

SALINAS, Calif. —The homeless and needy in Salinas' Chinatown neighborhood were treated to a special holiday meal Monday that was prepared by some of the Monterey Peninsula's best chefs.

Professional chefs took over the kitchen at Dorothy's Kitchen and cooked up roasted ham, scallop potatoes, and pozole.

The meal was prepared by members of the American Culinary Federation Monterey Bay Chapter.

Normally the chefs would be having their own holiday party, but instead, they decided to donate their passion and profession to create a fancy meal for the homeless.

"This is one of the finest meals we've had all year," said Chinatown resident Mike Husted.

His friend Terrie Goins added, "It's wonderful. God bless the people that supplied this food for us."

"People's hearts and chivalry is still alive. For them to just come out of their way, and come cook at a homeless shelter, that shows a lot about their character," said Mikey Calderon.

Chefs also donated food to the nonprofit for future meals. This is the first time that Monterey Bay-area chefs partnered with Dorothy's Kitchen, and organizers hope to make it a regular partnership.

"We are going to give industrial-sized cans so it makes their job easier, and makes it more efficient for them to be able to get food out to as many people as possible," Jason Giles, executive chef for the Portola Hotel and Spa in Monterey.

The new help comes when the soup kitchen needs it the most. Dorothy's Kitchen just served up its biggest meal of the year for Thanksgiving, and the shelves are now bare.

"Everything's gone out of there so having somebody come and restock for us is got a lot of meaning and save us a lot of donor dollars and gets a new set of people involved with what's happening here in Chinatown," said Jill Allen, executive director of Dorothy's Kitchen.

If you would like to help the American Culinary Federation Monterey Bay Chapter with any food donations, go to www.montereybaychefs.org.