

Mama Rosie's Spirit Nourishes Minds, Bodies of Boston-area Children

The spirit of Rosina Cammarata Sardo is easily seen and felt within the walls of Mama Rosie's on Dorrance Street in Boston. Yet because she instilled her son and grandsons with more than just the knowledge of how to make great tasting raviolis but also an overarching sense of care and compassion, her spirit is felt throughout the greater Boston area, and specifically by children.

"She was Mama Rosie to everyone," remembered grandson Nick Sardo, son of founder Anthony Sardo and now owner of Mama Rosie's. "She found a contentment in cooking, in doing what she's doing, and in feeding everyone," he added.

Beginning in 2004, Mr. Sardo made Mama Rosie's spirit even more tangible by committing to support the Greater Boston Food Bank's Kids Café Program. Initially donating 600 pounds of pasta, Mama Rosie's has continued to support the program, giving about 1,000 pounds of frozen pasta on a monthly basis, which ensures a weekly offering of cheese tortellini, ravioli, or stuffed shells to hundreds of children. In fact, the company's support has been so steady and appreciated that Wednesdays have become "Mama Rosie Night" at the Kids Café.

In addition, Mama Rosie's has on various occasions supplemented its usual support by making additional donations of trays of lasagna during school vacation weeks, which also allow for the Kids Café chefs to take a well-deserved night off.

"The support of Kids Café is a reflection of the family's commitment to giving back to the community," stated Brian McNulty, president.

The Greater Boston Food Bank's Kids Café Program provides more than 1,000 after school meals a day (and more than 225,000 meals a year) to at-risk children at various Boys & Girls Clubs throughout eastern Massachusetts, as well as offers interactive and hands-on nutrition programs that teach healthy eating skills. As a result of its generosity, Mama Rosie's is a member of the Kids Café Heroes Club, which "celebrates those businesses that consistently go above and beyond in generosity of time, food, and spirit."