



GOOD NEWS

Fifth Avenue restaurant
feeds teachers, Fort Myers
businesses donate lunch
for Lee hospitals

Brian
Roland
AMY
OSHIER

FEEDING *the community*

Sarajane Sullivan
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

With dining rooms reopening in limited capacities this week, things are starting to look up for restaurants.

That in itself is good news. The even-better news is restaurants are continuing to support the community by donating meals to health care workers and first responders.

This week, we look at a hospitality group feeding Collier teachers, a Fort Myers restaurant and data analytics firm partnering to feed health care workers, and a big-chain restaurant making missing prom a little more bearable for high school students —

with bread-stick bouquets.
Here's some good news.

Campagna Hospitality Group creates \$100,000 gift card challenge to benefit Collier teachers

Chef Vincenzo Betulia and the Campagna Hospitality Group will donate 4,000 \$25 gift cards to Collier County teachers, and will match dollar for dollar every donation made to its initiative. The gift cards can be redeemed by teachers at The French Brasserie, Osteria Tulia and Bar Tulia through summer.

"With the transition to homeschooling, teachers have been working tirelessly to

continue developing our children from a distance while also educating nervous parents on ways to keep children engaged during this time of online education," Betulia said in a news release.

To order or donate, visit thefrenchnaples.com or osteriatulia.com.

Chef Brian Roland delivers meals to Gulf Coast Medical Center via Frontline Foods

Chef Brian Roland of the Naples-based Crave Culinaire donated 120 meals on Friday to Gulf Coast Medical Center in south

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Fort Myers.

Roland gave the meals through a national initiative called Frontline Foods, which aims to support restaurants and feed health care workers with funding through donations by local community members.

The meals included healthy dishes such as chicken Waldorf salad on croissants, Caprese wraps, super-food salads, grilled bourbon chicken and pan-seared salmon.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to continue to feed those in need," Roland said. "Being selected by Frontline Foods to lead the way in this mission is truly an honor."

There are more than 50 Frontline Foods chapters around the country teaming with 700 local restaurants.

Ryan Sarver is a co-founder of the grassroots organization.

"For restaurants, this is a great way to generate revenue to possibly hire back staff members who were furloughed or laid off," he said.

Restaurants can sign up to be part of the program at frontlinefoods.org.

Liberty Restaurant and VeraData Decision Labs partner to donate lunch to Lee Health

Liberty Restaurant and VeraData Decision Labs donated 400 lunches to Gulf Coast Medical Center, Lee Memorial Hospital and HealthPark Medical Center.

Michael Peterman, founder and CEO of VeraData Decision Labs, originally reached out to Bob Boye, chef-owner of Liberty in south Fort Myers, as a way to support a friend who's a nurse on the COVID-19 floor at Gulf Coast Medical Center.

"We're so lucky because our business is one that is able to operate remotely," Peterman said in a news release. "We all see how hard this is for those on the front lines, and we want to help our community and support our health care professionals."

The lunches included Cuban-style garlic chicken and rice with "tons of Gatorade," according to Peterman.

When customers heard about Liberty's plan to feed health care staff, they



Chef-owner Bob Boye, right, and Richee Boye in the kitchen at Liberty restaurant in south Fort Myers. COURTESY LIBERTY

started donating to the initiative, as well.

"It's just this enormous, beautiful storm of kindness that has turned into this enormous kindness snowball rolling downhill that's now a full-on avalanche," Boye said in the news release.

"And I couldn't be more excited about how to pass that on and try to put smiles on people's faces."

Boye plans to continue making and giving meals as more donations come in.

For more, visit eatliberty.us.

More good news from Southwest Florida restaurants

Jennifer's Women's Boutique in south Fort Myers is collecting restaurant gift cards to donate to health care workers.

The store will give each person who donates a gift card a Jennifer's reward certificate in the amount of the card's denomination, plus an additional 25%. The certificate can be used online or in-

person when the store reopens. Restaurant gift cards can be mailed to Jennifer's at 13251 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919. Virtual gift cards can be emailed to jennifersfortmyers@gmail.com. Donors should include their name and email address.

Olive Garden is giving high school kids the virtual prom of their dreams — through Photoshop. Students can take pictures of themselves and their friends in prom attire and send the photos to @olivegarden using #OliveGardenProm on Twitter or through an Instagram direct message. The restaurant chain will create a picture of students and their friends as if they were at prom together. Students can also download a DIY pasta-themed prom court crown and line of prom bread stick bouquet wrappers at bit.ly/OGProm2020.

Bouquets include sayings such as "Breadstick Bae," "Prince of Parmesan" and "Most Saucy." Order bread sticks using Olive Garden's Carside ToGo or delivery to place in the prom bread stick bouquet wrappers.



Executive chef and partner Vincenzo Betulia poses for a portrait on Friday, November 9, 2018, at The French in Naples. ALEX DRIEHAUS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS