



JOHN HOPKINS/STAFF

READY TO SERVE: Joined by Jennifer D'Andrea-Terreri, the chefs from Orleans-Niagara BOCES are ready to serve their guests at Tuesday's event. Front row from left, Michael Haas, Franklin Spicola, D'Andrea-Terreri, Chef Terrence Ridgeway. Back row, Lance Bradley, Jeffrey King, Dustin Cumbie, Justin Undercoffer.

FOOD FOR A CAUSE

Children, adult students team up to attract sponsors

STAFF REPORTS

Supporters of a recently-launched initiative to open transitional housing in the city for disabled and homeless veterans welcomed potential sponsors to a special gathering Tuesday.

Students from St. Mary's School in Swormville and cooks from Orleans-Niagara BOCES welcomed their guests and served up dinner at Christ United Church.

These disparate groups were brought together by Jennifer D'Andrea-Terreri and Charles Diemert, a literacy specialist at Orleans-Niagara BOCES.

St. Mary's students Marissa Guzdek and Parker Krug said they wanted to do something to help homeless veterans after reading the book, "December Stillness," about a girl who befriends a homeless veteran.

"We got inspired by it," said Guzdek, "and started a food drive for homeless veterans."

Krug said he felt bad after reading about the veteran.

"He was outside and didn't have shelter or food," Krug explained.

Tuesday's event saw the children greeting guests while the cooks prepared and served the evening's meal.

While the children organized a canned food drive, the cooks are preparing for "Cook for a Cause," an alcohol-free, family-friendly



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FINAL TOUCHES: Chef Terrence Ridgeway, rear, and Michael Haas check to see if one of the evening's dishes is ready to be served. Inset, Marissa Guzdek and Parker Krug stand with their St. Mary's School of Swormville principal, Sister Sheila Anne Burke at Tuesday's dinner

fundraiser that will be held at the Elks Club on July 6. It gets under way at 11 a.m. and tickets are \$10 per person; \$12 at the gate. There's also a \$25 family rate. Disabled and homeless vets get in for free.

People interested in donating to the food drive may drop off food through July 1 at the following sites:

- Elks Lodge 41, 6791 North Canal Road
- VFW Post 2535, 125 Caledonia St.

- American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara St.
 - Navy-Marine Club, 27 Park Ave.
 - Christ Community Church, 140 Genesee St.
 - Groff's Fitness Center, 859 Davison Road
 - St. Mary's School, 6919 Transit Road, Swormville
 - Amherst Christian Academy, 2625 Tonawanda Creek Road, Amherst
- Additional information can be found at www.homelessveteranswny.com.