



Thomas J. Delle Donne MAT, CEC, Assistant Dean of Johnson & Wales University College of Culinary Arts

“MEALS ON WHEELS DELAWARE GUEST CHEF THOMAS J. DELLE DONNE IS TEAMING UP WITH HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY’S CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS FOR THE CELEBRITY CHEFS’ BRUNCH.”

April 12, 2016 - – On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Meals On Wheels Delaware will host the 19th Annual Celebrity Chefs’ Brunch at Hercules Plaza, in Wilmington, Delaware. This exclusive event features renowned chefs catering to upscale food enthusiasts, to raise money to support the nearly 4,000 seniors in Delaware receiving hot meals from Meals On Wheels programs. Behind the scenes, a host of volunteers work tirelessly to make the event a success. This year 16 students from the Howard High School of Technology’s Culinary Arts Program will be joining the volunteer efforts to raise funds and benefit their elderly neighbors.

Chef Thomas J. Delle Donne, Johnson & Wales staff and students, will be visiting Howard High School of Technology on Friday, April 15, 2016. Chef Delle Donne plans “to share his story with the students at Howard High School, discuss their goals and plans, and give them insight on what it will take moving forward to secure the career they want in the culinary field.” Chef Delle Donne will also advise the students on the food preparation required for the menu items they will assist in preparing at the Celebrity Chefs’ Brunch.

T.J. is a Delaware native and grew up in the Little Italy section of Wilmington. Determined to make a career out of his passion, he enrolled at Johnson & Wales University, Providence Campus College of Culinary Arts, and graduated in 2004. He returned to the university in 2005, as the assistant director of culinary events and personal chef to the university president. T.J. is now Assistant Dean at the College of Culinary Arts.

Meals On Wheels Delaware, Executive Director, Anne Love said, “We are thrilled to have T.J. as a participating chef at the Celebrity Chefs’ Brunch and the Cellar Masters’ Wine Auction. His enthusiasm and culinary skills are sure to impress event attendees and inspire the culinary students at Howard.”

Many of the student volunteers have already begun building impressive culinary resumes through their participation in the SkillsUSA competition. Graduating senior and National Honor Society member, Tyzaiah Lee (pictured on the right) said, “I participated in SkillsUSA in the front of the house competition at the state level and won first place, a gold medal. I get to move on to the national competition this summer.”



The student volunteers are excited to use their skills to help raise funds through the event. “I just feel good about helping out with such a great cause,” said student volunteer Brandon Justin, “Meals On Wheels is such a great program, I’m happy to give my support.”

Tickets are still available for this worthwhile event. Individual tickets are \$125, guests can enjoy a special group rate of 5 for \$575, and for the first time this year, Meals on Wheels Delaware is introducing a “Young Professionals Ticket” for guests ages 21-40 for \$75. For additional ticket and event information please visit www.measlonwheelsde.org.

About Meals On Wheels Delaware

The mission of Meals On Wheels Delaware is to ensure, through the provision of financial and human resources, that every eligible senior in the state of Delaware receives a hot, nutritious meal in their home.

A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, Meals On Wheels Delaware is a public/private partnership between the federal government, the state of Delaware, five meal-providing agencies, and thousands of volunteers from corporations, civic, religious and community groups. The organization provides additional financial and volunteer resources to meal-providing agencies, to ensure that no senior in Delaware must be put on a waiting list for meal service.

Last year, Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered 664,810 hot, nutritious meals to nearly 4,000 homebound seniors statewide. This service gives recipients the gifts of health, independence, and companionship.

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