



Community
COOK-OFF
formerly Men Who Cook **April 25, 2026**



February 2026

Dear chef,

TEAM's 18th Annual Community Cookoff (formerly known as Men Who Cook) will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2026. This is TEAM's annual fundraiser to support our many life-changing programs that benefit nearly 20,000 residents in our community each year.

Will you be a featured Chef at TEAM's Community Cook-off Fundraiser this year?

This event is essential to keep programs such as Meals on Wheels, housing and food support programs, income tax assistance, home heating help, the regional diaper bank, medical transportation for older adults, and so many more running and able to meet the needs of our neighbors. With a record number of our neighbors turning to TEAM in the most difficult of circumstances in the last year alone, we hope you will stand alongside us as we aim to ensure all who turn to us have the support and resources they need.

As a Chef, you are asked to:

- Prepare an appetizer, entrée, or dessert of at least 250 sample portions (usually 3-4 trays worth)
- Prepare your dish in a licensed kitchen facility (Ansonia High School is available with materials and assistance of our experienced Chairpersons Kevin, Fred, and our kitchen lead Mikey Cotela). Your food will be transported to Warsaw Park by TEAM.
- Arrive at Warsaw Park by 5:15pm to set up and be ready to serve your dish. Dinner is served 6:00 - 8:00pm.
- Cook as an individual Chef or have a team of no more than three chefs cooking together.
- Sell 10 or more event tickets to your friends, family & co-workers.

You will receive:

- Chef hat, apron, and gloves. Chafing dishes & serving utensils.
- An evening of fun and a chance to show off your culinary skills to our community!
- BONUS: The chance to support nearly 20,000 individuals and families in need in our community!

A Little Competition: we will have attendees vote on their favorite dishes. You must signify to us that you are interested in participating in these friendly competitions, and we will place voting buckets at your booth.

To register as a chef, please fill out the attached form and return to Lillian McKenzie at lmckenzie@teaminc.org.

To buy tickets or learn more about becoming a sponsor, please visit teaminc.org/communitycookoff/. Thank you for supporting TEAM and our community!

Sincerely,



Fred Ortoli
Community Cookoff Committee Co-Chair



Kevin Spooner
Community Cookoff Committee Co-Chair

Please take a moment to share your thoughts in TEAM's triennial Community Needs Survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2VXTWCS>





In the last year alone, TEAM has served...

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

627

young children accessed childcare, developed school readiness skills, and obtained medical & dental care

109

children with special needs & disabilities were provided critical services to ensure school readiness and success

142

individualized child health referrals & supports made possible as a result of preventative health screenings

269,790

diapers provided to 640 children & families

1,313

children improved their nutrition via healthy meals & Family Child Care partnerships

402

Family Child Care providers strengthened their business management operations & expanded quality childcare access

2,108

children received holiday toys via TEAM Toys 4 Kids

SUPPORT & EMPOWERMENT

19,056

individuals and 9,175 households connected to community and state supports

5,086

households avoided crisis with home heating assistance supports including repairs & replacements

189

homes received emergency assistance to maintain or obtain safe, affordable housing

1,090

tax returns were filed returning \$1.8 million to CT's economy including child, education & earned income tax credits

45

individuals were provided employment services and enrolled in education & training toward gainful employment

143,833

meals (172,000+ lbs) of healthy foods distributed to food pantries through Project MANNA

OLDER ADULTS

11,196

meals served to 328 older adults through Community Cafés

104,451

meals served to 412 older adults through Meals on Wheels

661

older adults (65+) working with TEAM maintained their independent living

33,954

incontinence products provided to 145 older adults

75

seniors received elder care options, care management including intake & assessment, services & referrals, goals & follow-up, and continued supports and action-planning

7,121

medical transportation rides provided to 201 older adults

2,612

hours of services provided to 137 older adults - including homemaking, and volunteer services such as shopping, chores, outdoor work, telephone reassurance, transportation rides & friendly visits