



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 12 - Steel Chef Cookoff combines workforce training for teens with culinary delights

WHEN: Monday, March 12, 2018

TIME: 6pm - 9pm

WHERE: RYAN ARTS CENTER 420 Chartiers Ave. McKees Rocks, PA 15136

EVENT LINK: [facebook.com/events/258840624649511/](https://www.facebook.com/events/258840624649511/)

**INFO ABOUT PROGRAM: forstorox.org/steel-chef/
#SteelChefPgh**

(MCKEES ROCKS, PA - February 28, 2018) Focus On Renewal, Ohio Valley Hospital, and the Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant program have teamed up to coordinate a *live* cooking competition, dubbed “Steel Chef Cookoff”, that doubles as a job training program for teens.

The cookoff will be held on Monday, March 12th, on-stage at the Ryan Arts Center, with six teams battling it out chef-style in front of a live audience. Each team is comprised of two area chefs and three to four teens. Bill Fuller, Corporate Executive Chef of big Burrito Restaurant Group, will emcee the event with Hal Klein of Pittsburgh Magazine and other local celebrity judges determining which team has what it takes to win the coveted title of “Steel Chef”.

Chef-led instruction, including basic cooking skills and culinary and food safety training began in January and will run through March, prior to the cookoff. Teens will work hands-on with chefs to develop the necessary skills to compete before a live studio audience. This experience can also lead to a potential career in the culinary field through chef mentorship.

“As a chef who works closely with young adults every day, I am very passionate about kids and teens learning how to cook their own food,” says Chef Jess Rattanni of the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. “Not only is cooking an important life skill to have, but it teaches you so much—from nutrition to fractions, to building qualities like confidence and creativity! It can even be a stepping stone into a first job or even a career. Focus on Renewal has many great programs that help with teen development and I am honored to be a part of Steel Chef!”

Participating Chefs:

- Chef Tom DeGori from Ohio Valley Hospital
- Chef Norrasert Nareedokmai from Silk Elephant/Bangkok Balcony
- Chef Keyla Nogueira Cook from Keyla Cooks
- Chef Claudy Pierre from Eminent Hospitality Group
- Chef Jess Rattani from Jambo Grill/KMSSA/Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
- Chef Kevin Sousa from Superior Motors

Rebecca Bykoski, Program Manager of the Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant program, said, “Restaurants now represent the largest sector of employees in southwestern Pennsylvania. Partnering with Focus on Renewal and Ohio Valley Hospital for the Steel Chef Cookoff provides us with another way to support this industry growth by directly connecting chefs with an opportunity for mentorship, while providing teens with some culinary skills and exposure to a future career within the restaurant industry.”

Teens participating in the Cookoff passed a competitive application process via the newly launched Teen After School Program at Focus on Renewal’s Ryan Arts and Culture Center.

“Few after school programs exist at the local high school outside of sports,” said Lydia Morin, Director of Engagement & Enterprise at Focus on Renewal. “The culinary arts classes have really excited and inspired our teens.”

The Steel Chef Cookoff is a unique fundraiser for the Teen After School Program, which is offered to students at no charge. All funds raised from the event will help support future after school programming for teens in the StoRox community. The Steel Chef Cookoff is open to the public; tickets are \$20. Tickets for Sto-Rox residents are \$10. Attendees will enjoy tastings from Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurants operating throughout the area. Purchase tickets at forstorox.org/steel-chef/.

About Focus on Renewal:

The Focus On Renewal Sto-Rox Neighborhood Corporation, or FOR for short, was founded in 1969. FOR founders led a group of mobilized citizens and activists to create an umbrella organization for much needed social services now ranging from food security, nutrition, early-childhood, after school, support groups and mental health, to arts programs for all ages and small business incubation.

FOR has now grown to house 30+ staff at six locations throughout McKees Rocks and Stowe Township (Sto-Rox). FOR aims to support the people in our community through programs for all ages aimed towards the development of healthy mind, body and spirit. We work with a wide range of partners to ensure high quality programming is accessible to all 13,000 residents of the Sto-Rox Community. Learn more about all Focus On Renewal offers at forstorox.org.

About Sustainable Pittsburgh:

Sustainable Pittsburgh affects decision-making in the Pittsburgh region to integrate economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality as the enduring accountability, bringing sustainable solutions for communities and businesses.

Among its core strategies for progress are sustainability performance programs, which enable organizations to track their sustainability advancements and earn recognition for their accomplishments. The Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant program, for example, helps restaurants make improvements in the areas of energy, water, waste, sourcing, people, and nutrition. Levels of a restaurant’s sustainability achievement begin with Bronze Plate and progress to Platinum Plate. View Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurants and their sustainability profiles at sustainablePGHrestaurants.org.

About Ohio Valley Hospital:

Ohio Valley Hospital (OVH), located in McKees Rocks, is a 126 bed not-for-profit community hospital with a medical staff of 250 physicians in 26 medical specialties. OVH has been providing specialized diagnostic services, advanced technologies, comprehensive treatments and truly personalized care to the residents of Pittsburgh's western suburbs for more than 100 years. OVH also offers inpatient and outpatient dietitian services to encourage healthier lifestyles and food choices, along with several programs for diabetics. We have gotten involved in many community projects to help benefit the wellness of our service area. For more information, please visit www.ohiovalleyhospital.org.

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