

Cooking Up *Better* Lives

Better Lives Makeover 2010



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Cooking Up Better Lives

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The Bridge Over Troubled Waters

An unprecedented collaboration of the foodservice equipment and supply industry to design, furnish, and install kitchen equipment and supplies at one of the 10th largest comprehensive crisis centers in Texas.



About Cooking Up Better Lives

Imagine non-profit organizations all over the country saving thousands of dollars in their budget with little volunteer or staff time required.

Imagine hundreds of stomachs able to be fed more safely, more efficiently and more routinely. Imagine better shelters, safer camps, brighter schools, better youth centers, and fancier children's homes.

Cooking Up Better Lives has provided more than a quarter million dollars in foodservice equipment and supplies and helped leverage the important work of non-profits across the nation and overseas.

Traditionally, an industry that supports its own local causes has now brought together hundreds of manufacturers and dealers for one collective, ongoing mission.

"The restaurateurs have long been supporters of food banks, shelters, and other causes in our communities," said Randy Brunschwig, founder and president of Cooking Up Better Lives. "Cooking Up Better Lives is pleased that the equipment and supply community - manufacturers and distributors - who partner with these restaurants to deliver foodservice solutions are now making such a difference as well."

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Fact: Every month in the U.S., more than 50,000 women seek restraining or protection orders.
Fact: 72% of women going to a shelter bring their children.

Cooking Up Better Lives has chosen Houston as the site of its inaugural "Better Lives Makeover" – a complete procurement, design and install of a new kitchen for a local non-profit agency. Since the initial nomination was submitted by Houston Food Bank to Cooking Up Better Lives, more than \$150,000 in equipment and supplies has been secured for The Bridge's new women and children's shelter, slated to open in Spring 2011. The new kitchen will make it possible to serve more than 200,000 meals annually, up from 137,000 in the current facility. Such a makeover is believed to be the first nationwide collaborative of restaurant equipment and supply vendors and dealers at this level.

Better Lives Makeover Story

Just outside of Houston, sits a two-story 12,000 square foot building known as "The Bridge" (The Bridge Over Troubled Waters). It helps those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault or homeless situations, regain their footing, and return to society with greater self-determination and preservation.

· In 2008, The Bridge had to turn away 810 women from safe shelter due to a lack of space.

· *Today*, The Bridge serves more than 137,000 meals annually, which are prepared from a kitchen no larger than one you would find in a mid-sized home.

· *Tomorrow*, The Bridge will be 40,000 square feet- more than triple the size of the current facility.

· *And each day thereafter*, The Bridge will shelter and feed at least one-third more people than the present building- **more space, more meals, bigger impact.**

How You Can Help

1. **Donate inventory:** If you have inventory to donate, simply call (303) 322-2229 or submit your information online at:

<http://www.CookingUpBetterLives.org>

2. **Donate cash:** Each of the organizations involved in the Better Lives Makeover depends on financial support to maintain operations and provide services. Visit their websites and donate today! A list of the makeover sponsors can be found at our website:

<http://www.CookingUpBetterLives.org>

You can designate your gift to the **Better Lives Makeover on the form.**

Other Ways to Help

3. Cover the story of the Better Lives Makeover in your newsletter, email updates, and/or company ads.

4. Sponsor the kickoff event or grand opening of the kitchen by contacting Cooking Up Better Lives at:

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