



WHERE DREAMS ARE MADE:

- 1. Jack McElvein, Vice President of Food Services and CSS Foods giving us the tour of the Community SeniorServ facility.
- 2. Community SeniorServ HQ.
- 3. Jack McElvein inside one of Community SeniorServ's many giant freezers.

COMMUNITY SENIORSERV

The heart, soul and manpower behind Meals on Wheels Orange County.

{ BY Candice Lopez } { PHOTOS BY Blythe Hill }

Most of us have heard the name Meals on Wheels, but not many know Community SeniorServ, the big-hearted organization that makes those meals and then gives them wheels. Community SeniorServ provides healthy, tasty meals to adult day health care centers, adult day care centers, and seniors throughout Orange County. More than 15,000 clients are served annually with 1.5 million meals delivered. The majority of these clients are below the poverty line. It is Meals on Wheels that caters to homebound, frail seniors who are unable to shop and often unable to prepare meals for themselves. Five days a week, they receive three meals that come frozen and can easily be prepared in the microwave.

Part of Community SeniorServ's mission is to provide healthy meals to offer a strong nutritional foundation; as their website says, "good nutrition is the foundation of health, regardless of age." Accordingly, a registered dietician plans the meals to offer 100% of the U.S. Nutritional Recommended Daily Allowance.

But the Meals on Wheels program offers more than just a meal. In addition to the regular provision of food, clients look forward to daily contact with delivery drivers, as well as the calls and visits of case workers who regularly check on their welfare. Because they are under-served seniors, they are often faced with many more problems than simply where their next meal is coming from. The case managers become their link to meeting their individual needs. Also available through Community SeniorServ are in-home services that can assist the seniors with light housekeeping and basic personal needs. The program also provides home safety inspections and repairs. Often a slight modification in the home can

dramatically improve a senior's safety.

Community SeniorServ is operated by a board of 20 big-hearted directors. One face behind Community SeniorServ is Earle Zucht, a man who has spent a large part of his life in the corporate fast lane, always on a plane traveling from one executive commitment to another. In recent years, Earle has committed to traveling a little less and spending more time at home. However, instead of "kicking back," he started a new mission: Give back to his community. When Earle's friend directed him to Community SeniorServ in Anaheim, things clicked and Earle found his place on the board of directors for the organization.

It takes a lot of hard work and helping hands to keep this organization operating like a well-oiled machine, but don't think for a minute that all this work is drudgery. This company loves what they're doing and who they're serving. Still, they are far from satisfied; they want to do more.

Community SeniorServ has attracted more than 650 volunteers to accomplish their goals, and on top of that, they have created a sister company, CSS Foods, that offers bulk food services and individual bottling for health service centers, schools, government agencies, restaurants, and other businesses. This business supplements Community SeniorServ so that they are not solely dependent on donations. Maintaining CSS Foods also ensures that 94 cents of every dollar donated to Community SeniorServ goes directly to programs and services.

In addition to Meals on Wheels, Community SeniorServ provides hot lunches to 27 senior centers in Central and North Orange County five days a week. Community SeniorServ is the largest senior nutrition provider in California and the 6th largest in the country. With its resources and large scale, Community SeniorServ's Meals on Wheels program might be aptly nicknamed "Dreams on Wheels."

2ND ANN. CELEBRITY CHEF OC RAISES \$47,717

On June 12th, celebrities and some of the best OC chefs united at the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel for the 2nd Annual Celebrity Chef OC fundraiser to benefit Community SeniorServ. Each celebrity was paired with a chef and given one hour to dream up and prepare an appetizer and entree using the secret theme ingredient for the year, star fruit. A distinguished panel of judges chose Bruno Serato and his sous chef Eddie Meza from the Anaheim White House Restaurant as winners in the Best Appetizer category. Taking home top honors as winner of the Best Entree category was OC Register columnist Frank Mickadeit and his sous chef Brett Ackerman. Other celebrity chefs who attended were Christine Devine (Fox 11 News Anchor), Robert Hallowell (Hairstylist to the Stars), Laura Leighton (Melrose Place), CJ Lewis (the 11 yr-old chef prodigy), Ric Romero (ABC 7 Consumer Reporter), Doug Savant (Desperate Housewives), and Barbara Venezia (TV Personality).

VOLUNTEER

For volunteer opportunities, visit Community SeniorServ's website at www.communityseniorserv.com, call (714) 229-3349, or email Theresa Powell, Volunteer Manager, at tpowell@communityseniorserv.com

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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Earl Zucht, Managing Partner Edwards Productions, Inc.
Earle is currently Chair of the Fund Development Committee and the Committee Chair of Celebrity Chef of the OC which held the 3rd annual competition in September of 2011. Earle is an avid golfer and tennis player and resides in Corona del Mar with his wife of 29 years Maria.