

Published February 17, 2007



HARRY BAUMERT/REGISTER PHOTOS

School wins tasty reward

At left, Columbus High School students greet celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito and his mother, Nicolina, with a standing ovation before being served a spaghetti lunch Friday in the gym.

The chef's visit was the Waterloo school's reward for winning the national Del Monte/Do Something Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive Challenge by collecting 210,621 cans.

Eighty-year-old Nicolina, known as Mama, worked alongside her 40-year-old son. In the photo at middle left, she tells a story to the school's kitchen staff: Mary Jones, Denise Bolton and Marilyn Mootz.

At bottom left, Nicolina helps her son Rocco DiSpirito prepare food for about 350 people at the high school. They began work on Thursday, helping the kitchen staff prepare bread, sauce and meatballs.

