

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS  
JACOB SOUL FOOD RESTAURANT



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FREE



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# Jacob Family Restaurant Served Free Meals on Thanksgiving

by Derrel Jazz Johnson

Rachid and Kim Niang, owners of two Jacob Restaurants in Harlem (Lenox @ 128<sup>th</sup> and Frederick Douglas @ 143rd St), continue to give back annually to the Harlem community by giving free dinners on Thanksgiving day. For several hours the community came to Jacobs and had their Thanksgiving turkey and trimmings along with the food that Jacobs features every day. Rachid is blessed to have dozens of volunteers who are there to help make the process a smooth one and

especially to help the elderly and disabled. Congressman Charles B. Rangel, who represents the 13th Congressional District of New York that includes Upper Manhattan and parts of the Bronx, served food Thanksgiving afternoon at Jacob Restaurant located at 2695 Frederick Douglass Blvd. Wearing an apron and serving turkey, Congressman Rangel greeted the hundreds of Harlemites who waited in long lines for the signature soul food served at Jacob Restaurant. What

was on the menu for those who were served at Jacob? Soul food staples that the restaurant has become known for, like fried, baked, barbecue and jerked chicken, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes, string beans, curried goat, crab cakes, cabbage, baked salmon, beef short ribs, different types of rice, corn, oxtails, assorted fruit, dessert including banana pudding, and much more were available, as well as items especially added for Thanksgiving, including turkey and



## HIGHLIGHT

staffing. Harlem News spoke exclusively with the Lion of Harlem about his continued service to

Harlem, particularly on Thanksgiving. "Well it makes me feel good, it remind us of how fortunate

some of us are. It's a good feeling. It's always good whether it is Thanksgiving or not to give thanks to God." I then asked Congressman Rangel what he was most thankful for. "Being alive. I'm 85 years old" he said, as the natural leader continued to shuttle people in and around the restaurant. While Congressman Rangel was certainly the oldest volunteer serving food at Jacob Restaurant, we also spoke to the youngest volunteer, Leon Barrett, Jr, an eight-year old who was with his grandmother and two aunts. Leon said it was "good" to volunteer to "help the community." I, for one, was very impressed with this eight-year old who was not only volunteering, but knew why he was doing it too. Kudos

to Leon Barrett, Jr and his support system for installing the valuable lessons of giving back to the community at such a young age.

Walt Frazier welcomed the community

at Jacob Restaurant at the Lenox @ 128th St location. Rachid said "We as black men need to talk. If we all choose a day to give back to the community, we will all succeed." Rachid, who

named the restaurant Jacob in honor of his father, Jacob Niang, had to oversee many Thanksgiving orders for clients, while still managing to selflessly serve the community on a day of need as well.



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