



Kitchen Conscience

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GENRES: Food | Travel | Redemption | Giving Back

FORMAT: 30-minute Episodic

This series highlights restaurants and cafes committed to doing good for the the disabled community and felons by hiring them in positions of importance. Hosted by ex-convict and restaurateur [Danny Trejo](#) of Trejo's Tacos and American Horror Story Actress and Down Syndrome icon, [Jamie Brewer](#), the shows will examine the growing number of restauranteurs whose over-arching desire is to go forward whilst giving back.



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VIDEO LINKS:

Video: 44th President Barack Obama speaks to the importance of returning felons to the workplace in this video:

<https://youtu.be/XiosRLz5q10?t=460>

Video: CNN's Hero of the Year Amy Wright, who founded Bitty & Beau's Coffee Shop inspired by her two youngest children with Down Syndrome.

https://youtu.be/FbeFRd_u9KM

The location list includes:

Ruth's Thompson's non-profit Hugs Cafe
McKinney, Texas

Which offers classes on Monday to special needs individuals wanting to get into the culinary arts.

<https://hugscafe.org/>

Howdy Homemade
Dallas TX

Tom Landis' creamery is run by individuals with Down syndrome and autism.

<https://howdyhomemade.com/>

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Sara Mae Pratt's Puzzles Bakery and Café
Schenectady, New York

Sara Mae's sister Emily is on the Autism spectrum and her bakery and cafe has received notably 600+ employment applications for just 25 slots, but also quite some positive press: <https://www.puzzlesbakerycafe.com/press>

Mozzeria

San Francisco, California

Melody and Russ Stein founded Mozzeria in 2011 which was created with the goal in providing customers a welcoming, memorable, and visual environment to experience Deaf culture while working to increase career placement opportunities for Deaf people.

<https://mozzeria.com/about/>

Starbucks

Washington, DC

Starbucks has converted a Washington, D.C., location to be fully friendly for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Baristas will be outfitted with special ASL-embroidered aprons, and baristas who can communicate in sign language will sport an "I Sign" pin.

<https://stories.starbucks.com/stories/2018/eight-things-to-know-about-the-new-starbucks-signing-store>

Bitty and Beau's Coffee

Wilmington and Charleston, North Carolina

The owner's 2 youngest children Bitty and Beau have Down Syndrome and they have dedicated their lives to creating a world of equal opportunities. Co-founder Amy Wright was honored on CNN Heroes.

https://youtu.be/FbeFRd_u9KM

Felon University

Jeff Henderson's culinary career is a storied one: He was the first African-American named "Chef de Cuisine" at Caesars Palace, he was the first African-American executive chef at the Bellagio, he became a celebrity chef on his own television shows and he penned a best-selling autobiography. But the 52-year-old's path to becoming a nationally renowned culinary sensation was anything but smooth sailing. Award winning chef, Food Network Star and celebrated reentry expert, Chef Jeff Henderson, has exclusively designed HR training, to help talent recruiters uniquely identify, recruit and retain low risk ex-offender employee candidates. Jeff uses the employee recruitment model from his own extraordinary employment success, as a former prison dishwasher to the first African American executive chef at the world-renowned Bellagio hotel in Las Vegas.

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Now he runs Felon University

<https://www.felonuniversity.com/about>

Sugar Plum Bakery

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Baking a Difference since 1987

The mission of Sugar Plum Bakery is to serve the needs of persons with disabilities through employment, education and training. Sugar Plum Bakery will promote the integration of persons with developmental disabilities into society by helping them become independent and evolve into working contributing members of our communities.

<https://sugarplumbakery.org/our-mission/>

Edwin's Leadership & Restaurant

Cleveland, Ohio

<https://edwinsrestaurant.org/about-us/>

EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute is a 501(c)(3) organization. We give formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the culinary and hospitality industry while providing a support network necessary their long-term success. Our mission three-fold: is to teach a skilled and in-demand trade in the culinary arts, empower willing minds through passion for hospitality management, and prepare students for a successful transition home.

L'Chaim Foods

San Francisco, CA

Alex Shandrovsy made a surprising hiring move at [L'chaim Foods](#), his San Francisco-based catering company. He hired three ex-felons. Today, those three people are his Director of Operations, Sous Chef, and Executive Chef.

<https://www.facebook.com/kosherbayarea/>

REFire

Rebecca Kelly-Manders, a 45-year-old classically trained chef is founder of the [REfire Culinary Program](#). Rebecca's program, named after a kitchen slang that means to correct a mistake, aims to train members of a population that is often shunned and rejected by employers: people with felony convictions. She launched REfire in the fall of 2017. The program is two months long and teaches students skills like knife handling and food safety. The program also helps students pass the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe certification exam.

<http://refireculinary.org/>

<https://www.wbur.org/kindworld/2019/05/21/a-recipe-for-renewal>

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