



HARLEM COMMUNITY
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"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

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COMMUNITY
HARLEM NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

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Jacob's Restaurant Giving Thanksgiving Meals

By Lil Nickelson

You could walk right past Rachid Niang and not even realize that you just passed by the owner of three food establishments in Central Harlem. He and his wife Kim are humble people who are worker bees and they are instilling that work ethic into their daughter and son as well. The line to get into the Jacob's Restaurant locations at 373 Lenox Avenue on the south west corner of 129th Street and at 2695 Frederick Douglass Blvd on the north west corner of 143rd Street were long, but the people were patient given the frigid weather we were experiencing on Thanksgiving Day.

For the past eight years Rachid and Kim Niang have opened these two locations to give food away out of love to Harlem residents. Barbara, a 71-year old faithful customer told me, "The food is great." I saw the incomparable Ms. Vy Higginsen, noted author, playwright, radio and TV personality. You never know what

celebrity, politician or community leader may join Jacob's on Thanksgiving Day to help serve of just as a special guest.

David Taylor, the manager of the Frederick Douglass Blvd store summed things up best when he told me, "It's a blessing to give back and to show our love and appreciation with good service." Each customer received two trays of food, one for hot food and one for cold or salad bar choices and a beverage to go. Princess Jenkins, the owner of The Brownstone boutique located at 24 East 125th Street and her family helps to serve food at the Lenox Avenue location every year. Rev. John Davis, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church located just down the street from the Frederick Douglass Blvd location was helping to serve at that location. His house of worship has a special relationship with the Niangs and he loves helping before he goes home to his family and give thanks.

I spoke with other volunteers as well like Quennasira



line outside Lenox Avenue store



At 8th Avenue store manager David Taylor, Volunteers Sara and Re. John Davis, volunteers Drame and Barry, Owner's brother Ibrahim Niang and kneeling owner Rachid Niang



Kim Niang and her son and daughter



Line outside 8th Avenue store

Sekou who has volunteered for the last 8 years and her daughter Tyreen Sims who has joined her mother for the last 2 years. Rachid's brother Ibra-

him Niang is helping anyway he can as well. The Niangs have provided Harlem residents with jobs, they inspect their ingredients to ensure that

they are fresh, and no task is too small or big for them to take on.

Rachid Niang sums it up best, "A proper greeting is very

important because it sets the tone for your dining experience. We are here to serve you and to make your experience at Jacob's Restaurant of Harlem a wonderful one. " The beautiful thing about the Niangs is they have shown their staff how they want their customers to be treated by example and their business enterprise thrive on these principles every day.

Photos by Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor'

