



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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FREE



**47th Annual
AUDELCO: Black
Theatre's Reunion
and Awards!**

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Holidays with
King of Salsa
WILLIE COLON &
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at Lehman**

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**New York Urban
League provides 2.5
Million in college
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Historically Black
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Jacob's Restaurant Gives Back on Thanksgiving

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Jacob's Restaurant Gives Back on Thanksgiving



Photos by: Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



l-r Rashid and Kim Niang with their 2 children & Pastor Davis.



l-r Volunteers Princess Jenkins with husband Polo Green



Far right: Manager & Chef of 8th Ave location David Taylor



by Clarke Illmatical

On a brisk afternoon of November 28th, 2019, lines formed at both Jacob's Soul Food Restaurant locations in Harlem, for the annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway, which started in 2010.

Rashid Niang, the co-owner of Jacob's Restaurant, immigrated to the United States from Senegal in 1988. He held various positions at Manna's Restaurant from 1999 to 2009, where he met his wife, Trinidadian immigrant Kim Lum Chan Niang, who is the co-owner of Jacob's Restaurant. The couple opened the first Jacob's Restaurant in 2009, located on 373 Lenox Avenue, naming the restaur-

ant after Rashid's father. The second restaurant was opened in 2010, located on 2695 Frederick Douglass Blvd.

Speaking on the annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway and what it means to him, Rashid said "It is a way to say thank you to all of my customers. It's a long process and hard work. But, we do it with a smile. It makes me feel great. It's a way to tell the Harlem community, thanks for what you have done for me."

Pastor Edward Oliver Jr. a volunteer in attendance spoke on Rashid Niang's character saying "It's a blessing that this man can serve free meals in two locations - serving his community. He doesn't have to do it, his heart is big. He's

a blessing, not only on this day but in general. He makes his presence known and he knows the people. This is a blessing, he could be making money on this day, but he's not doing that. He has a heart for the people. We pray that people understand that and continue to patronage this business." Rashid Niang has con-

tinually been active in the community. He has an ongoing relationship with both First Baptist Church and Blessed Trinity Baptist Church, which had several volunteers at each Jacob's Restaurant location for Thanksgiving.

Princess Jenkins, the owner of the clothing boutique, The Brownstone, has

volunteered at Jacobs on Thanksgiving along with her husband Polo Green, owner of Harlem Masters, for seven years. Speaking on the importance of the event, she said "Jacobs has been a long-time sponsor of women in the Black non-profit organizations. It's a way to assist him in feeding the community. It's about a circle, we all have to hold hands to complete the circle that helps to develop Harlem."

David Taylor, manager and chef of Jacob's restaurant on Frederick Douglas, spoke on the preparation for the event, saying "It

takes us a few days. Three to four days. In the morning [Thanksgiving] we come in, we're here from four o'clock in the morning, so we can let people in by eleven."

Over 800 people were fed at Jacob's Restaurants on Thanksgiving day. Each person received trays for hot food and the salad bar, along with a beverage and dessert. Rashid, Kim and their children, staff members and volunteers all contributed to the success of the event, giving back to Harlem and more importantly, giving thanks.