



**Communities United, Inc.**

Creative Start Child Care Centers



# Flavors Without Borders *Nourishing Bodies and Minds*

6th Annual Virtual Gala to benefit  
**Communities United, Inc.**

Thursday, October 14 @ 6:00 PM

Hosted by **Billy Costa**

*Co-host of Matty in the Morning on Kiss 108, Dining  
Playbook on NESN, and High School Quiz show on WGBH*



**Ed Harding**  
Special  
Guest

# About Communities United, Inc.

Our mission is to provide high quality education and family services to a diverse population of children. For 50 years we have strived to ensure the success of the child, empower the family and strengthen the community.

Our Creative Start Children's Centers serve 350+ children annually. Our students and families:

- Range in age from birth to 5 years old
- Speak 18 different languages
- Only 38% of students speak English at home
- Most live at or below the federal poverty line

Communities United, Inc. (CUI) provides comprehensive services in education, social services, health and parenting via our four Creative Start Children's Centers serving Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Burlington, Lexington, Newton, Needham, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley and Woburn.



**Communities United, Inc.**

4 Militia Drive, Suite 1 Lexington, MA 02421

Phone: 617-744-6076 | <https://www.communitiesunitedinc.org/>

Operating since 1970

## *Languages Spoken*

Albanian	Bengali	Arabic
Bulgarian	French	Dutch
Korean	Chinese	Nepali
Portuguese	Italian	Russian
Punjabi	Spanish	Pashto
		Telugu

## *Challenges Our Families Face*

Homelessness	Domestic Violence
Poverty	Immigration Issues
Food Insecurity	Abuse
Illiteracy & Language Barriers	

## *Food Insecurity*

Since the onset of the pandemic, food insecurity in Massachusetts increased from 9% to over 17%.

**Massachusetts experienced the greatest percentage increase in food insecurity anywhere in the nation.**

# Countries Represented by CUI Children & Families





# Food Insecurity

## A common challenge for many CUI families, but this year was different...

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity in Massachusetts increased 55% from 2019 to 2020. Food insecurity rates during the pandemic were highest among adults with children. **42% of households with children** experienced food insecurity during the pandemic.



# The CUI Food Program

In order to support our children and families, struggling with food insecurity, we quickly mobilized a monthly food distribution program.

Funded by our generous sponsors and donors, **CUI has delivered over 1,500 meals since October 2020**, and we're still going strong!

*Program Sponsors include: Books & Bread, Grace Chapel of Watertown, Hope & Comfort, Mildred's Dream Foundation, Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church, Waltham Together*





# Flavors Without Borders

## *Nourishing Bodies and Minds*

Thursday, October 14 @ 6:00 PM

Help CUI address **Food Insecurity** while cooking with local chefs celebrating our multicultural families!



Cook with Us!  
Thursday  
October 14th  
6:00 PM

# Feast on Flavor

- **Local chefs** from your favorite restaurants lead you through **cooking demonstrations** while you follow along at home!
- Get insider **tips and tricks**...try a new **cuisine**... explore novel ingredients... all while supporting the **children and families of CUI**.
- Hosted by **Billy Costa**
- Special Guest **Ed Harding**
- Purchase a **cookbook** highlighting guest chefs and CUI family recipes – enjoy **Flavors without Borders** for years to come!



**Ed Harding** is an award-winning local journalist who has been a member of NewsCenter 5 for over 25 years. He is the recipient of numerous awards including three Boston/New England Emmy awards for best Anchor-News and two first place Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Sound Bites award for On-Air Personality, among others.



**Billy Costa** is an Emmy award-winning and popular radio personality with KISS 108-FM. He is also the host of High School Quiz Show on WGBH. He and co-host Jenny Johnson currently star on **Dining Playbook**, a 30-minute show that combines two of New England's favorite pastimes food and sports.

## Participating Chefs

*Prep the kitchen and set your table!*



**Irene Li**

Irene Li (she/hers) opened Mei Mei Restaurant in Boston in 2013 and has spent the years since driving the industry forward in ethical sourcing and fair and transparent employment practices. Now, Irene and her team are evolving Mei Mei into a packaged dumpling company. A Boston native and Cornell University graduate, Irene has worked on farms, taught in prisons, and watched perhaps hundreds of hours of YouTube videos on food and cooking. Mei Mei has been featured by Food & Wine, Eater Boston & National, The New York Times, People, Bon Appetit, The Boston Globe and more. She is an Eater Young Gun, Zagat 30 Under 30, and Forbes 30

Under 30 winner, and six-time James Beard Foundation Rising Star Chef semi-finalist.

**Cook**

**With**

**Us**



**SWEET  
BASIL**

**Dave Becker**

Dave is the chef and owner of Sweet Basil in Needham. He started his career as a kid growing up in the seaport town of Newburyport, MA. He knew at an early age that the life of a chef suited his energy level perfectly. After high school Becker moved out to Napa Valley, where he honed his craft at Cindy Pawlcyn's Mustard's Grill. From there he continued his travels to the Italian Riviera at the Hotel Imperiale where he made a lot of pasta under Chef Fabio Brambilla.

Coming back to Boston with a head full of ideas, Dave wanted to chef his own restaurant and, at the age of 24, his aspirations and hard work came together. In 2007 he doubled the size of the restaurant, and authored the cookbook entitled *Thrown Out Of An Italian Kitchen*, which is a recollection of



## Participating Chefs (continued)



### Danielle Souza

Chef/Owner, Danny's Cheese Bread of Billerica. Danielle was born in Brazil and moved to the United States in 2016 with her husband and 3 children. She began making Cheese bread in her house so she could stay at home and take care of her young children.

Cheese Bread is one of the most recognizable Brazilian snacks, made in a healthy way for the whole family.

In 2019, Danny's Cheese Bread was opened in Billerica at 326 Salem Road. All her cheese bread products are made with love in the onsite kitchen. Soon you will be able to purchase Danielle's cheese bread products in a few local grocery stores. Stay tuned!

# Cook

# With

# Us



### Douglass Williams

Douglass Williams, Chef/Owner, MIDA Boston, MIDA Newton and a new project opening in September 2021, APIZZA, is a Food & Wine Best New Chef 2020 award winner, a James Beard Foundation Semi-Finalist, Best Chef Northeast, and BExcellence 2021.

Known for his deft technique, beautiful hand-made pasta, generous hospitality, and a smile oston Magazine's Best of Boston, Best Chef, General and spirit that light up the room, Williams is committed to making a difference in both the kitchen and the community. He passionately believes the world can come together over a delicious bowl of pasta.

# Flavor Without Borders

## Evening Program

Greetings from CUI Leadership & Special Guest Ed Harding

Billy Costa Kicks Off the Evening Cooking Demonstrations

CUI Families Share Favorite Family Recipes

Virtual Tour and Sneak Peek of CUI's Vision for the Future

Closing Celebration

# Sponsor Benefits

## **Presenting Sponsor** - \$7,500

- Opportunity to address viewers during *Flavor Without Borders* Gala LIVE
- Lead Sponsor on event Cookbook (anticipating print distribution to over 500)
- Full page ad in the event program and Cookbook
- Logo featured prominently on website for one year and on event materials
- Ten complimentary Cookbooks

## **Executive Chef Sponsor** - \$5,000

- 1/2 page ad in event program and Cookbook
- Logo featured on website for six months and on invitations and event materials
- Eight complimentary Cookbooks

## **Head Chef Sponsor** - \$2,500

- 1/2 page ad in event program and Cookbook
- Logo featured on website for six months and on invitations and event materials
- Six complimentary Cookbooks

## **Sous Chef Sponsor** - \$1,000

- 1/4 page ad in event program and Cookbook
- Logo featured on website for three months and on invitations and event materials
- Four complimentary Cookbooks

## **Chef's Table** - \$500

- Two complimentary Cookbooks

## Committed Sponsors 2021

*Executive Chef  
Sponsor*

**YALE**  
APPLIANCE + LIGHTING

*Sous Chef Sponsors*

**AVD**  
AUDIO VIDEO DESIGN

New England  
**HOME**

All \$500+ Sponsors receive  
recognition in our program  
and on our social media  
sites



# 2020 Sponsors



PLATEMARK



CROWLEY PAINTING



The Carey Family

The Jacob Family

# Food for Thought....

## Want to do more?

Bring SECURITY and STABILITY to children and families served at CUI.  
Support our Capital Campaign to purchase a building where we need it most.



# Our Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal

## Capital Grant Opportunity

CUI has an opportunity to secure a federal grant for 80% of the purchase price of a building for our Head Start Program. In order to qualify, CUI must raise 20% of the purchase price. We plan to make this opportunity a reality.

## What is the need and Why?

We hope to safeguard our ability to stay local in Waltham, where rents are rising every year, threatening our ability to stay near the families who need us **most**. A permanent center close to our families allows us to offer a stable future in the





# How you can Support our Vision

**Opportunities to Support CUI:**

**Sponsor a Classroom**

**Honor/Memorial Gifts**

**Monthly or Annual Pledges**

**Estate and Planned Gifts**

**Gifts of (appreciated) Stock**



Learn more about how you can help by contacting:

Terri Natale, Executive Director

[Terri@CommunitiesUnitedInc.org](mailto:Terri@CommunitiesUnitedInc.org)

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones holding a large, golden-brown loaf of bread. The hands are positioned around the bread, with some fingers gripping it. The background is slightly blurred, showing parts of people's clothing, including a pink long-sleeved shirt and a blue and red plaid shirt.

“

Family well-being  
occurs when all  
family members  
are safe,  
healthy, and have  
chances for  
educational  
advancement and  
economic  
mobility.”

# CUI Leadership Team



**Terri Natale**  
Executive Director



**Julie Gillcrist**  
Director of Head Start



**Sylvia Dandrata**  
Director of Education and Child  
Development



**John Soehle**  
Accounting Manager



## To sponsor Flavor Without Borders please contact:

**Terri Natale**

Executive Director

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617-744-6076 X231

**Sylvia Dandrata**

Director of Education & Child Development

[Sylvia@CommunitiesUnitedInc.org](mailto:Sylvia@CommunitiesUnitedInc.org)

617-744-6076 X226

## Or reach out to any member of our Event Committee:

[Molly DeJohn](#), CVS Health

[Lindsay Gardner](#), athenahealth

[Janet Fogel](#), Commonwealth of Massachusetts (retired)

[Tracy Soehle](#), Affiliated Managers Group

[Maddie Welch](#), Canta y Baila Conmigo LLC

[Harry Carey](#), Biogen (retired)



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