



HOPE, HEALING, AND JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN.

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August 1, 2026

Dear Friend:

It's time to fire up the ovens, crank up the burners and show us what you've got!

I'm personally inviting **YOU to volunteer as one of the amateur or professional cooks** at the 16th Annual **MEN WHO COOK** presented by **CITGO** — Will County's most entertaining and delicious fundraiser!

This year's event will be **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, from 6:00-9:00 PM at our beautiful and spacious **NEW LOCATION**: the Event Center on the main campus of Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet.



**MEN WHO COOK presented by CITGO** is all about having fun, showing off your favorite recipe, meeting other community cooks, and helping make a difference in the lives of children who desperately need our help. The event features local men (amateur or professional cooks) to prepare their favorite **APPETIZER, SIDE DISH, ENTRÉE or DESSERT** and serve bite-size samples to **more than 1,000 hungry guests** in a friendly and spirited competition. Guests taste the dishes and vote for their favorites, with prizes and bragging rights awarded to the most popular recipes!

### **WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN MEN WHO COOK?**

Because it's FUN! Because it's COMPETITIVE! But most of all, it's a great way to SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION. Every bite you serve helps a child. **100% of the proceeds from MEN WHO COOK presented by CITGO support the Will County Children's Advocacy Center's critical forensic interview, advocacy, and trauma therapy services** proving hope, healing and justice to children ages 3–17 who have endured severe physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child pornography, neglect, and/or exposure to violence.

### **HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

- **There is NO REGISTRATION FEE to be a cook!** Cooks are responsible for purchasing their food and serving utensils. We provide **heating racks, Sterno, plates, napkins and eating utensils**.
- Each cook is asked to prepare approximately **500 two-ounce samples** for guests to taste.
- Choose your specialty — **appetizer, side dish, entrée or dessert**. It can be a famous family recipe, your signature dish, something you love to grill or smoke, or a recipe you've always wanted to try.
- **Get creative!** Cooks are encouraged to decorate their serving area and wear fun, eye-catching attire to attract guests to their table. The more memorable, the better!

- **Bring your personality!** The camaraderie and creativity of our cooks are a huge part of what makes MEN WHO COOK such a special event.
- Each cook may bring **one assistant/sous chef**, who will be admitted free. All other guests must purchase tickets online or at the door.
- The event is videotaped and promoted through local media, cable television and social media — providing an excellent opportunity to **promote your business, organization or community involvement**.
- Most importantly, **your participation helps provide critical services to children who have experienced unimaginable trauma**.

### **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A CHEF — JUST BE WILLING TO COOK**

Over the years, MEN WHO COOK has attracted elected officials, law enforcement officers, business owners, community leaders, firefighters, attorneys, doctors, educators, professional chefs, amateur cooks — and guys who simply **love to cook and want to make a difference**.

Whether you're a seasoned grill master or the guy your family calls when it's time to make your famous chili, we want YOU! And if you have participated before, **we especially hope you'll return — and encourage a friend, colleague or fellow foodie to also sign up for this fun and competitive event!** Some of our best cooks have joined us because another cook personally invited them.

### **THE FIRST 43 COOKS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

To reserve your spot, complete the online **COOK REGISTRATION FORM** at: [www.menwhocook.info](http://www.menwhocook.info) before **October 1, 2026**. Space is limited, and only the first 43 completed registration applications will be accepted — so don't wait until the last minute! If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact **Lisa Morel Las**, Executive Director of the Will County Children's Advocacy Center at [lmilas@willcountysao.gov](mailto:lmilas@willcountysao.gov) at 815/774-4562 (work direct) or 815/641-7986 (work cell).

The overwhelming success of MEN WHO COOK presented by CITGO is driven by the **tremendous spirit, camaraderie, creativity and enthusiasm of our cooks**. You are not simply preparing food — **you are helping us prepare a brighter future for children who have been hurt and need our help**.

So, fire up the stove, sharpen your knives and join us for an unforgettable evening of great food, friendly competition, community spirit and an important cause!

With MUCH appreciation,



**James W. Glasgow**  
Will County State's Attorney

Presented by:

16TH ANNUAL

**CITGO**  
FUELING GOOD™

Saturday . 6pm - 9pm

**OCT. 17, 2026**

Joliet Junior College - Event Center

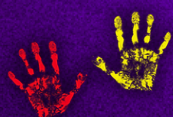
1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet



# MEN WHO COOK

A fun and casual cook-off featuring amateur and professional cooks serving samples of their favorite dish for public judging, to support the

WILL COUNTY



**Children's**  
ADVOCACY CENTER



HOPE, HEALING, AND JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN.

**\$55 / Person    \$100 / Couple    \$20 / Chld (6-12 Years)**  
**FREE / 5 Years & Under**

**Cash Bar**



**Kids Activities**



**Raffles**



SCAN FOR WEBSITE!



CHEF GLASGOW

[www.MenWhoCook.info](http://www.MenWhoCook.info)

**PURCHASE TICKETS**

**VOLUNTEER TO COOK**

**BE A SPONSOR**

