

## 'Men Who Cook' go all out for Valley TEAM effort

By Patricia Villers, Register Staff

ANSONIA — A benefit for Training, Education and Manpower has all the ingredients for a good time, organizers say.

The Valley's first "Men Who Cook" fundraiser for TEAM will feature food prepared by elected officials, police chiefs, businessmen and more.

Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan is the main sponsor of the event, to be held from 6 to 10 p.m. April 5 at Warsaw Park.

Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan President John Roman said he and Bill Nimons, bank vice president, will be preparing pulled pork sandwiches. Neither has ever made the dish, he said. "We just see this as a way to support all the great work that TEAM does in the Valley," Roman said.

The fundraiser is the brainchild of Diane Stroman, vice president of development for TEAM. "I participated in one in New Jersey and it was a fun event," she said. "It's a good opportunity for the men in our community to show off their culinary skills." She said she hoped it would become an annual Valley event.

Most of the 47 men who will be participating in the event gathered at Tuesday's kickoff reception at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant.

Event chairmen are Dave Grant of David M. Grant Caterers and Charles Sullivan of John J. Sullivan's Restaurant.

They reassured participants they would guide them through the food preparation, from letting them use their kitchens to showing them how to serve what they make.

Sullivan stressed it was all about having a good time. "Everyone who's cooking can relax, it's not a contest," he said.

There will be a wine and beer station, and there will be live music for dancing as well as a television for watching the Final Four college basketball tournament, Sullivan said.

The television will be raffled off at the end of the evening.

Tickets are \$50 and will only be sold in advance. "This is a great community awareness" event, Sullivan said. Grant thanked Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan for its support and told participants he and Sullivan would contact them individually before the event to go over the rules and procedures.

TEAM President and CEO Richard Knoll told participants not to worry about doing poorly. "You have Charlie and Dave to help you out."

The cooks will wear chef's hats and aprons that will be provided.

Shelton Police Detective Ben Trabka said he was going to make a devil's food cake using his mother-in-law's recipe.

The cake will be served topped with homemade ice cream, he said. "I'm looking forward to it," Trabka said with a smile.

Jack Ribas, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, plans to prepare paella, a Spanish rice dish, while John Yeager, job developer at Birmingham Group Health Services in Ansonia, said he will make a seafood chowder.

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