

A Fresh Wind Catering

In a quiet moment of prayer on a hot summer day, a wind blew through owner Trina Williams' home. The fresh wind inspired her to pursue her dream of owning a catering company. Taking her experience as a chef at Youngstown State University (YSU), Trina reached out to the Common Wealth Kitchen Incubator (CWKI) in October 2015 to start a food-related small business focused on offering an off-campus dining option for YSU students on nights and weekends. Nearly four years later, she has built a successful brand through catering for high-profile clients and events; an active media presence; and a genuine love for building community through her food.

A Fresh Wind Catering boasts an impressive client list, including Youngstown mayors and city council members, Mahoning County commissioners, and Senator Sherrod Brown. (Political candidates, take note: all those whom Trina has catered for have won their elections!) Trina can also be found at events for the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce, fellow food-related small business "Too" Hot Mamas, and local fundraising groups. She offers cooking classes to both adults and children, and cooks regularly for Turning Point Residentials, where she has worked since 2004. She has also appeared on the local news stations (WFMJ and WKBN) five times for cooking segments. Trina credits the work of Kristen Olmi of KO Consulting, LLC and Alan B. Charity and Kendra Corpier of the Oak Hill Collaborative for media and business development resources in the community.

While Trina offers a wide variety of menu items, her signature chicken fried rolls steal the spotlight! Egg rolls loaded with a mixture of carrots, broccoli, scallions, tomatoes, and chicken are deep-fried to a crisp, golden brown. Not a fan of meat? No problem! She makes vegetarian and vegan dishes to accommodate the needs and wishes of her clients.

The relationships Trina has built with her clients on the north side and with Sean Dougherty, the CWKI manager, in addition to the quality equipment available for use in the CWKI, keep her returning as a regular user of the shared space. North side residents and YSU students have enjoyed her late-night and weekend meals through online or phone orders and pickup from the walk-up window at the CWKI. Soon, she will have a permanent space at 5512 Youngstown-Poland Road in Struthers, where customers can visit Wednesday-Friday to sit and savor one of her meals.

For more information about Trina's menu and ordering, call 330-956-1944 or visit www.freshwind.com or A Fresh Wind Catering LLC on Facebook. Starting February 16, 2019, she returns to the CWKI on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For one-of-kind eats, come see the Roll Specialist!