



November 21, 2008

## Chef donates proceeds to help hungry



Though relatively new to the catering and personal chef business, Terri Schmitt wants to make an impact during the holidays.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, Schmitt, owner of The Very Zest in Hyde Park, is offering a menu to customers to make holiday preparation easier.

On top of that, she is giving 5 percent of her holiday profits to City Gospel Mission, an organization she learned about through various outreach programs at Crossroads Community Church.

"They're doing some really amazing things and I believe that it's just a great way to show God's love to people, maybe at a

time when they need it the most," Schmitt said about why she chose to work with City Gospel Mission.

Schmitt also works with Knox Presbyterian Church and caters small events for them.

In exchange, the church lets her use the new commercial kitchen as a base for her business.

Schmitt started cooking when she was young and said that led her to be fearless in the kitchen.

After spending 16 years as a graphic designer, she transferred her energy into another creative outlet and studied at the Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State College.

Schmitt said she gets inspiration for her dishes from something she's tasted and enjoyed, whether it's a recipe from family and friends or from restaurants and travel.

"I really enjoy seeing what other chefs are doing and coming up with my own versions," she said.

For the Christmas menu, she's testing recipes including beef burgundy and roasted pork tenderloin stuffed with dried, winter fruits such as apricots or figs.

Check [www.theveryzest.com](http://www.theveryzest.com) for menu and ordering details.

Reported by Lisa Wakeland. Have you caught someone being a star? Let us know at [easternhills@communitypress.com](mailto:easternhills@communitypress.com).