

St Joseph Scottish Rite Wins Chili Cookoff Second Year In A Row

In 2008, when the Valley of St. Joseph had to give up its annual pancake breakfast, the brothers began searching for another fundraising venue for United Cerebral Palsy and the Rite Care Center. Brother Bill Swope, 32° KCCH, had for many years been his company's chairman for its annual entry at the state championship chili cookoff. Having retired, Brother Swope suggested dusting off his cooking utensils and using the cookoff to help raise donations. To signify his return to action, he named the team "Scottish Rite – The Boys Are Back" and began working on some of his old contributors. The Brothers of the Valley followed suit and by the time the cookoff was over that year, had raised over \$11,000 for the charities, winning not only the People's Choice award for best chili, but also placing second in the state championship.. This showing more than doubled the amount raised by the second place team.

Spurred on by those results, Brother Bill and his team set a goal of beating the previous year's record. The City of St. Joseph hosted the 2009 state championship on March 1 and the Scottish Rite – The Boys Are Back rallied to raise even more money, even in the face of a weak economy. Again winning the People's Choice award for best chili, Brother Swope and his team raised an amazing \$12,653 for UCP and Rite Care, and again more than doubled the donations raised by the second place team. This amount does not count donations which arrived after the cookoff ended.

UCP and Rite care staff members expressed their gratitude to the Valley of St. Joseph for making a significant contribution to their programs, which are so important in the St. Joseph area.

Scottish Rite – The Boys Are Back team members have already decided to live up to their name and be back next year with another record-breaking award-winning performance.

<< Chili_Cookoff.JPG >> – Brothers Bill Swope (left) and Dale Bryan prepare a batch of their award winning chili for St. Joseph Brothers at a meeting prior to the cookoff.

<< Trophy_2009.JPG >> – The 2009 People's Choice trophy.

Mochila DeMolay Chapter Announces Latest Fundraiser

Tyler Arnold, Master Councilor of Mochila DeMolay Chapter spoke to the brethren as they gathered at a recent Valley meeting. He updated the Valley on the recent and upcoming activities of the Chapter as well as promoting its latest fundraising activity.

Mochila has made Howie and Karish Damron's latest CD, "The Masonic Touch," available for \$20. The CD includes Howie's popular song, "The Masonic Ring." For more information, or to purchase the album, contact Mochila DeMolay c/o the Valley of St. Joseph.

<<Tyler_Arnold_011509.jpg>> – Tyler Arnold, Master Councilor of Mochila DeMolay updates the Scottish Rite brethren on Mochila's recent activities.