



Introducing Our “National Star”

We continue our tradition of honoring National Account team members who clearly exemplify our core values of Team Spirit, Service Spirit, and Spirit of Progress, and who have been selected by a National Account review panel to be named a “National Star of the Month”. This month, we are pleased to celebrate two National Stars from the East, who have each gone above and beyond their daily responsibilities in making every day a better day: Please meet

Hari Nayak, Executive Chef, Sodexo USA



Wednesday 9 August 2006

Hari Nayak

Executive Chef, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Plainsboro, NJ

For the past four years, if you were to visit the kitchen at BMS, Plainsboro on any given week day, you would be sure to find Chef Hari Nayak hard at work, carefully planning and overseeing meal preparation for the loyal BMS customers. A Sodexo Chef for nine years with a passion for cooking and baking, Chef Hari's contributions have done much to advance Sodexo's success, not only at BMS, but at Lucent Technologies before that. What many would not know to ask, however, is how Hari spends his time outside of work.

It began close to three years ago, when tragedy in a friend's family motivated Hari to look for a way to help raise money. Spurred on by their inaugural success, they continued to look for worthy causes to benefit through their dining events. That led the two chefs two years ago to co-found New York Chefs *Cooking for Life*, a non-profit foundation that produces and executes fund-raising dining events for those in need around the world (www.nyccl.com). Within the past two years, *Cooking for Life* has successfully recruited and partnered with volunteer chefs to produce 18 highly successful events, the largest of which was a New York City Tsunami benefit in February 2005 that raised \$50K.

Like many of us, Hari was on vacation in July this summer. Once again, he was producing a culinary fundraising event, this time in Cairo, Egypt in the shadow of the Pyramids. The event was to raise awareness for and benefit an organization dedicated to advancing the needs of disabled travelers. The success of this summer's event has already launched conversations about a sequel to be hosted at The Taj Mahal in India in 2007.

What makes Hari run? When asked, he indicated that he derives great satisfaction from using his highly schooled and finely honed culinary abilities to do good for and bring happiness to so many through sharing the gift of food and dining. As Hari said, "It feels very good to do this."

Congratulations, Hari!! You are making us very proud. Without a doubt, you are worthy of the honor of being named National Star!

