

WHAT'S COOKING?

TWIN OAKS CHEF, JOHN RUGGERI

Chef John Ruggeri's culinary journey began at the tender age of 14 working at his family's restaurant on "The Hill" in St. Louis waiting on cab drivers in the back of the restaurant. He embraced every opportunity to learn and grow and his dedication and hard work did not go unnoticed, soon became known for his creativity in the kitchen and his ability to craft delicious and innovative dishes.

Ruggeri quickly was asked to run top restaurants you will know and remember around St. Louis - including Stan Musical's Restaurant, The Park Terrace Hilton, Belle Angeline's, Dominic's on The Hill, and Premio's, to name a few. He did this all while learning the ropes of the culinary world from seasoned chefs.

Under Ruggeri's leadership, several restaurants went on to earn the Distinguished Restaurant of North American Award (DiRoNa) not once, but twice.

After years of gaining experience in different culinary environments, Chef Ruggeri decided to take a leap of faith and follow his dream of opening his own restaurant. Chef Ruggeri opened and ran several successful and well known restaurants throughout the years including Ruggeri's (in Wentzville, Missouri) and Gio's (7th & Market in St. Louis).

We were grateful to have Chef Ruggeri join the Twin Oaks family five years ago where he serves as our Dietary Director. John says he loves making our residents happy with his delicious meals. "Cooking for them fulfills me and I feel blessed to use my God given talent each day in a new and exciting way." said Ruggeri. It has all come full circle as he now works with his daughter Allison in Twin Oaks kitchen each day.



“Disney may be the happiest place on earth but Twin Oaks is definitely a close 2nd! Making our residents happy fulfills me and allows me to use my God given talents.”

- Chef, John Ruggeri
Dietary Director
Twin Oaks at Heritage Pointe



“It is so rewarding and such a privilege to now plan events and activities that I grew up volunteering for through the years.”

- Ashley Kreitner, LMSW
Activities Director

A LOOK INSIDE OUR ACTIVITIES

Activities and special events play a large part of our residents day and no one understands the importance of this more than Ashley Kreitner, LMSW, our communities Activities Director. Ashley has a vested interest in our residents not only as a third generation family member here at Twin Oaks Senior Living but also as a licensed social worker.

Ashley received her Bachelors of Social Work at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri in 2013. She went on to receive her Masters of Social Work at University of Missouri St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri in 2015 and has been licensed since 2017.

Ashley began her career at Twin Oaks at 14 years old in the Dietary department and over the past 15 years has held various positions in multiple departments from Nursing to Admissions in both the O'Fallon and Wentzville locations.

Ashley has combined her years of experience, education, and guidance from previous generations to create an activities program that meets the needs of the whole person. Inspired by George Engel's Biopsychosocial Model, our activities staff strives to serve residents by creating opportunities to address their needs biologically, psychologically, socially and spiritually.