



# Bill Garlough

*Serving the community*

*By: Mark Loehrke*

When significant cracks began appearing in the nation's economic foundation back in the late summer and early fall of 2008, Bill and Karen Garlough probably should have been spending their sleepless nights worrying how severe a toll the apparent oncoming recession would take on their company, My Chef Catering. After all, while weddings and birthdays and other social events would surely go on—albeit likely on a smaller scale—a retrenchment on the corporate entertaining side of the ledger seemed inevitable as the financial gears began to creak and grind.

But while the Garloughs were indeed mindful of the potential damage on the horizon as business owners, they were somewhat preoccupied with the details of yet another big event planning job, and for this one the timing couldn't have been more fortuitous. Firmly in philanthropic mode, Bill saw the gathering economic storm and knew that his latest charitable endeavor—the Rotary Club of

Naperville's Soup's On! event—was not only in position to capture a few more benevolent dollars before purses began to tighten considerably, it was also set to pour money into shelters and food pantries right when those agencies would be bracing for a sudden and unprecedented demand for their services.

Indeed, when the final receipts were tallied from the first Soup's On!, the Garloughs' concerted efforts to keep overhead down by securing product and service donations from many of the major players and coordinating the entire event through their own My Chef operation paid off in a \$70,000 bottom line to be split among three DuPage County social service agencies just when they needed it most. Now Bill is back heading up a second installment of the event on the Tellabs campus in Naperville (see sidebar)—another in a long line of charitable efforts he and Karen have contributed to or helped oversee during their 20 years running My Chef.

"Caterers are in a great position to directly lend a hand because food and entertaining are centerpieces for so many charitable events," Bill explains in noting that My Chef provides cash or services to 20 or 30 organizations every year. "We've always felt that if the city has supported us and allowed us to grow our business here we owed it to the community to give something back."

Giving back also means giving time, and both Bill and Karen actively serve on a number of boards throughout the community—Bill with the Rotary and Loaves & Fishes, Karen with Naperville CARES and the Chamber of Commerce. Having worked with the Rotary to provide catering services for the group's annual Oktoberfest for the previous sixteen autumns, Bill proposed the concept for Soup's On!—a food-focused event designed to showcase an array of area restaurants in a casual and family-friendly "soup kitchen-style" setting—and volunteered

## Stirring the Pot

Second Annual Soup's On! Fundraiser

October 18, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tellabs, 1415 West Diehl Road

Tickets: \$40

(\$30 seniors, \$10 children 6–18)

Donations benefit Loaves & Fishes  
Pantry, Hesed House and DuPage PADS

More information: [www.soupsonorotary.com](http://www.soupsonorotary.com)

*Photo: Enrique Martinez*

to head it up when the organization was looking to do something new.

Charitable efforts like Soup's On! allow the Garloughs to expand upon one of the things they like best about their chosen line of work—the opportunity to develop personal, long-lasting relationships. A natural outgrowth of the company's dedication to the city it's called home for the past two decades, the social aspect of the catering business has meant that My Chef has been able to work and bond with a wide array of community-minded individuals around town.

"We've always felt that our time and our expertise were the two best ways that we could help out and get involved," Bill points out. "Neither Karen or I are from Naperville originally, but by working with so many passionate people and great organizations over the years, we definitely feel that this has become our community."

## Volley for the Cure

Young female athletes will dedicate their high school volleyball game on October 6th to fighting Breast Cancer. The Naperville Central High School volleyball team will host Wheaton-Warrenville South at 5 p.m., and they'll all be wearing pink! Breast Cancer survivors will be admitted free, as will sports fans who buy a pink t-shirt at the game. Regular admission is \$10. Help them "pack the place pink!"

## Dine Away Hunger

Fight hunger by eating at your favorite restaurant! On October 14th many Naperville eateries will donate ten percent of their profits to support the People's Resource Center food pantry. Participating restaurants include: Angeli's, Butterfield's, CityGate Grille, The Distinctive Cork, Egg Harbor Café, Francesca's Passaggio, Houlihan's, Jilly's, La Sorella di Francesca, Meson Sabika, Potter's Place, Raffi's on 5th, Tangerine Café and Walker's Charhouse.

## Cool Ride—Clean Choice

Come see the cars of the future... and today... in the Cool Ride—Clean Choice vehicle show. More than 20 cars and trucks that run on hybrid energy or alternative fuels will be on display. The event will also include Naperville businesses with eco-friendly products and services. October 10th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Naper Settlement, 523 W. Webster Street. For information visit [www.napersettlement.org](http://www.napersettlement.org) or call 630.420.6010.

## Celebration of Peace

International Peace Month will be celebrated here in Naperville beginning October 15th. The month-long commemoration includes a film festival on October 29th at North Central College's Meiley-Swallow Hall at 7 p.m. and many programs to help create unity through the arts, including drawing/painting and writing contests... all focused on a theme of peace. For more details visit [www.thinkglobalarts.org](http://www.thinkglobalarts.org) or call 847.567.1549.

## Naperville Back the Bid

Watch and (hopefully!) celebrate as the location of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games is announced from Copenhagen. Chicago is one of the final contenders for the games. An Olympic party will be held October 2nd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. along Chicago Avenue between Main and Washington. Organizers suggest you make your restaurant reservations now... and get ready to celebrate!