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Non-profit organization releases cookbook featuring recipes from Ypsilanti Community High School students

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Non-profit writing and tutoring organization 826michigan, which serves 2,700 youth across Southeast Michigan, is pleased to announce the release of Enjoy! Recipes for Building Community.

The collection of homegrown recipes, narratives and letters are from the kitchens and cultures of Ypsilanti students. Inspired by the district consolidation of Ypsilanti and Willow Run schools, 826michigan's Enjoy! Recipes for Building Community is a cross-kitchen, cross-community project to unite students whose writing represents Ypsilanti's many flavors.

"The moment each year when we release our major publication is a special moment for our entire organization," stated 826michigan Executive Director Amanda Uhle in a press release. "The energy in the room as students see their names in print for the first time is electric! This is the culmination of months of hard work by these students, the volunteers who worked intensively with them, and our staff. We are thrilled to be able to finally share the fruits of their labor with the community at large!"

The book is written by students of Ypsilanti Community High School's Liz Sirman's class for English Language Learners, as well as the younger students of Ypsilanti's Adams STEM Academy. Enjoy the contributions of notable chefs with Michigan roots, like famed restaurateur Mario Batali and Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig, whose personal recipes make for a perfect final course.

"I'm honored to be able to contribute to the collective creativity of such a great group of students," stated Weinzweig, who wrote the book's foreword. "When you read the students' stories you can't help but be inspired. Their connection to family histories, to cooking, to making their world a more caring and more connected place bode well for the future of our community."

826michigan's Enjoy! Recipes for Building Community celebrates its four main ingredients: the creativity of Ypsilanti students, an inspiration to write, a willingness to share their culture with the community, and, of course, an appetite.

Students, aided by 826michigan's volunteers, raided the cupboards of their home culture to contribute recipes and how-to's, memoirs and personal narratives about their experiences with cooking.

The students of Ypsilanti Community High School have also partnered with the younger students of Ypsilanti's Adams STEM Academy to publish a series of pen-pal letters, uniting the separate schools and communities through a love of food and a hunger to write. Designed by Kevin Woodland and Jill Epstein, and printed by Michigan book manufacturer Thomson-Shore, Enjoy! is a true community collaboration.

Enjoy! retails for \$15. It is available online at onwardrobots.com, at 826michigan's downtown Ann Arbor location, the Liberty Street Robot Supply and Repair at 115 E. Liberty St. and at Washtenaw County retailers Downtown Home and Garden, Literati Bookstore, Beezy's Cafe, and The Eyrie.

826michigan is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students aged 6-18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Services are structured around the belief that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success. For more information, visit www.826michigan.org.

URL: http://www.heritage.com/articles/2014/06/09/ypsilanti_courier/news/doc5394b7c9f1487042702878.prt

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