

Local Merchants Give Back

Along with five other not-for-profit organizations, A-HOME has been selected as one of Connie's Bakery's 2007 charitable partners. Connie Milstein, founder of Connie's Bakery & General Store, is a remarkable woman, a player on both the international and local scene. An attorney and senior business executive in New York City's real estate and property development industry, she serves on numerous boards including the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Refugees International, UN Watch and the American Hospital of Paris. Locally we have Connie to thank for the delightful bakery and gift shop in Mount Kisco that donates 100% of its profits to local charities. In addition to donating profits to charity, Connie's Bakery hires graduates of Westchester Community College's JobStar Program to serve as full-time paid apprentices with Executive Pastry Chef Simeon Manber.

The program's goal is to train individuals who have faced barriers to sustainable employment to make use of their new skills to move on to good permanent jobs.

Connie's offers a great selection of gift items (mostly hand crafted), gift baskets and cookie tins, along with mouth watering



Connie's Bakery and General Store
41 S. Moger Avenue, Mt. Kisco, 914-242-2014
www.connies.org

treats. So if you have a yen for something yummy, try one of Connie's Chocolate and Oatmeal UFO's, voted the Best of Westchester in 2006. Try two – you're supporting a good cause.

Jennifer Cook knows that when people decide to shop locally it's a conscious choice. They choose to support local shops.

To thank them, Jennifer established Helping Hands through NoKa, her wonderful shop in downtown Katonah. For every purchase over \$20, NoKa donates \$1 to one of three local not-for-profit organizations. A-HOME is one of the three. You can find NoKa just up the stairs from NoKa Joe's, Jennifer's new coffee shop, and it is truly a find if you like smart, sassy gifts.

At NoKa even the display pieces are for sale. Furniture from the 20's to the 60's is featured. An oak hoosier cabinet in the children's section still has the original instructions for food handling taped to the inside. Classic children's gifts include wooden toys and puzzles along with a new favorite – ugly dolls. These soft-bodied dolls look more like monsters – but cuddly ones.

It's a store where customers chuckle as they shop. A line of office note pads depict a 50's era woman requesting "more paperwork please" and band-aids come with a full red-lipped kiss printed on them. There are jewelry and hostess gifts and lots more, all at affordable prices. After you shop you can relax at NoKa Joe's with a great cup of coffee or tea, or buy some fair trade organic coffee to try at home.