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Mt. Kisco Bakery Donates Brownies For Inauguration

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For those fortunate enough to have been in Washington for this week's historic inauguration of Barack Obama, if they tasted some delicious brownies during their stay there's a chance they were baked in Mount Kisco.

To celebrate the momentous swearing in of President Obama, Connie's Bakery & General Store donated 20,000 brownies to the presidential inauguration. The delectable cakes were individually wrapped with a commemorative Obama sticker and were divided among eight different events. The largest batch of 10,000 brownies was delivered to Monday's "Day of Service" event at RFK Stadium by assistant pastry chef Jamie Jeffrey and Liane Paap, who arrived in the nation's capital on Sunday.

"(Owner) Connie (Milstein) wanted to support the efforts of our president-elect, of all the people in Washington, D.C., our nation and all the volunteers," said Deena Plotka, who works at Connie's. "A lot of these brownies are actually being distributed to volunteers who will be working all the different inaugural festivities. This is



Connie's Bakery & General Store staff and volunteers helped prepare 20,000 brownies for President Barack Obama's Inauguration.

just another way of Connie giving back."

To complete the ambitious undertaking, Connie's was closed from Jan. 5-17, but by no means did they shut down. The bakery's staff put in 20-hour

days, toiling in the kitchen from morning until night, cutting the brownies and packing them from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

While some doubts seeped in about reaching their goal after packing just 810 brownies the first day, the staff placed a sign on the bakery's door asking for help from the community. It was because of those who responded to the sign that the job was completed on time.

"That's the only way for us to be successful, is through the support of the community," said Plotka. "This goes to show us how many people are becoming aware of who we are, what we do and our mission, and they support our efforts."

Connie's Bakery & General Store was founded by Milstein and opened in 2005. The bakery is best known for its one-year apprenticeship program, hiring individuals who have struggled finding a job and training them for work in the food service industry. Jeffrey lived in a shelter until starting as an apprentice in 2006. Once her apprenticeship ended, she was offered a full-time job at the bakery.



Some of the thousands of brownies baked at Connie's ready to be shipped out last week to Washington.

“It makes me feel great to be working for someone like Connie who does wonderful things such as this,” said Jeffrey. “It was a lot (of work). I think that’s the biggest thing we’ve ever done here.”

Northern Westchester Hospital also contributed to the cause, providing Connie’s with a parking spot at the hospital and a refrigerated truck to store the brownies. Without the help of the hospital, as well as the community and the bakery’s customers and staff, this feat would not have been possible.

“It really was a great team effort,” said Plotka. “When you have a good team, everything flows. There really is no ‘I’ in team, because without everyone working together, you can’t pull it together successfully.”