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Healdsburg restaurant serves shelter families

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When Douglas Keane cooks, it's usually for people looking for an exquisite culinary experience at his Cyrus restaurant in Healdsburg, where one can find wild turbot with matsutake and junsai on the menu.

Thursday was different. Keane and his business partners, aided by about 30 family members and friends, served a relatively simple, but still exceptional Thanksgiving meal to about 60 adults and children who reside in Catholic Charities' family homeless shelter in Santa Rosa.

The guests were delighted by the meal, service and upscale surroundings at the Healdsburg Bar & Grill.

"I don't think I'd ever in my life be able to come to someplace like this. That's why it's so special," said Lisa Swaney.

April Woods raved over the fresh pumpkin soup and the fried turkey.

"Everything was so good," she said.

Serving people who could not afford his usual fare was Keane's idea, said said Barbara Gordon, one of his business partners.

"I just wanted to feed hungry people," Keane said. "It's been a really rough year for everyone. I haven't lost my job. My house is fine," he said.

They hired buses to ferry the shelter residents from Santa Rosa to the restaurant, which is managed by Keane and his partners.

Their families and extended families jumped at the chance to help out, Gordon said.

It was a festive affair that included helium balloons, coloring books and trinkets for the children, who reveled in being allowed to run freely in the fenced yard area.

"Going outside," was the best part of the day, followed by the mashed potatoes, said



CRISTA JEREMIASON/The Press Democrat

Daniel Partlow, 5, takes a big bite of mashed potatoes during a Thanksgiving dinner put on by Cyrus Restaurant chef Douglas Keane for members of Catholic Charities - Homeless Service Center held at Healdsburg Bar and Grill in Healdsburg on Thursday.

Dylan Woods, 7.

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