

Family Living

Beat the Odds: A Celebration of Youth

Butter "Tasty Turkey Meal Ideas" Recipe Contest

Runner-Up Winner



Turkey Cutlets with Raspberry Salsa

Kenneth Martis
Merrillville, IN
1/2 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
1 tablespoon horseradish sauce
1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
2 teaspoons Chef Paul Prudhomme's Poultry Magic
1/2 cup pancake mix
3-4 tablespoons butter or margarine
6-8 Butterball Fresh Turkey Cutlets
Salsa
2/3 cup mild salsa
1 10-ounce package frozen raspberries, in syrup, thawed and well drained

In small bowl, stir mayonnaise and horseradish sauce. In shallow dish, blend bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, seasoning and pancake mix. In large skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Dip turkey in mayonnaise mixture, coat thoroughly with bread crumb mixture, pressing in crumbs to bind well.

Saute turkey cutlets in hot butter until golden, about 4-5 minutes on each side. While turkey cooks, stir together salsa mixture. Top each cutlet with salsa or serve on the side.

Makes 6 to 8 servings. Per serving (based on 7 servings): 307 calories; 21g protein; 12g fat; 27g carbohydrate, 980mg sodium; 64mg cholesterol.

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Daniel has known hard times. While in high school, he and his family were evicted from their home and had to live in a van for eight months. While his mother worked, Daniel was responsible for cleaning, cooking meals, and caring for his six sibling. There were times when Daniel had to miss school to care for a sick child. Despite many obstacles, Daniel "Beat the Odds." He completed 10 honors-level classes; can speak English, Spanish, French, and some German; and maintained a 3.8 grade point average. Daniel, a recipient of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) "Beat the Odds" award, has set high standards for himself. Today, he is fulfilling his dream of going to college and is working toward his degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rhondee was a CDF "Beat the Odds" recipient in 1992. While a high school senior, Rhondee, in an award-winning speech entitled "Impact of Violence on the Family," described the murder of her aunt in 1983 and the effect this tragedy had on her family. Overnight, the size of her household increased from seven to eleven. This added burden put tremendous strain on her parents' marriage and they separated. As the oldest child, Rhondee assumed a great deal of responsibility, including preparing meals and helping to care for the younger children, while at the same time maintaining a A+ grade average and remaining active in school activities. Rhondee was a National Merit Commended Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, president of her high school senior class, and volunteered in her community. When recommending her for the award, her school counselor said Rhondee "attributes her accomplishments to a single-minded devotion to the pursuit of academic excellence, an intense sense of optimism, and a steadfast belief in God." Rhondee graduated from Spellman in 1997. She'll enter medical school this fall after a year abroad on a Watson Fellowship in India and Kenya studying the work, successes, and problems of women scientists in third world countries. She credits "Beat the Odds" with showing her that people cared about her and about helping others.

"Beat the Odds" is a project initiated by CDF and the Black Community Crusade for Children to focus on the positive potential of our young people. Too often we hear about young people getting into trouble, dropping out of school, becoming involved with drugs, crime, or gangs, or becoming parents too soon. Too seldom we hear of the many young people who are "Beating the Odds" despite the daunting conditions in

which so many of them live and the tremendous obstacles in the way of even the smallest achievement.

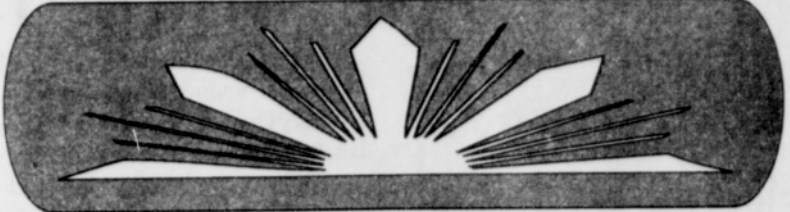
"Beat the Odds" celebrations have taken place in Los Angeles; Bridgeport and New Haven, Connecticut; Atlanta; East St. Louis; Detroit; Minneapolis/St. Paul; Concord, New Hampshire; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cincinnati; Memphis; Missouri City, Texas; New York City; and Washington D.C. We work with local education advocates, schools, and community leaders to select and honor students who demonstrate academic excellence and have the strength and determination to "Beat the Odds." They are honored for their personal achievements in their struggles to improve their own lives and the lives of others. At a special awards ceremony in their city, CDF and BCCC celebrate the remarkable lives of these young people and their families, friends, teachers, and counselors who helped them to succeed. Each student is presented with a cash scholarship and other gifts like a computer and a shopping spree. We hope that soon every city will begin celebrating youths' successes and will provide them scholarships to go on to college.

"Beat the Odds" celebrations strike a chord with community leaders and citizens who want to help children who are struggling and making it. We work with corporations that donate prizes for nominees and the media which does feature pieces about these youths. NBC4 in Washington and Los Angeles have been great supporters of the program. Because it has been so broadly embraced by the communities involved, "Beat the Odds" has fostered successes beyond those celebrated at the events themselves by serving as a catalyst for additional community efforts on behalf of these and other children.

If you'd like to know more about this program or would like to organize an event in your community, please contact Sharie Brown Wood at CDF, 25 E Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, 202-662-3529. Show young people like Daniel and Rhondee that people do care and can help them "Beat the Odds."

It's A...Boy!

Congratulations to Demosthenes and Cookie Romeo on the birth of their son Kyle C. Romeo. Kyle was born September 17, 1998 at Good Samaritan Hospital. At the time of his birth Kyle weighed 8 lbs. 3 ozs. and was 21 inches long.



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