



For Immediate Release

Epicurean Group Provides 7,000 Meals to North Bay Fire Evacuees and First Responders

Los Altos, CA (October 19, 2017) – Epicurean Group served more than 7,000 meals to evacuees over nine days in response to the widespread fires throughout the San Francisco North Bay area.

“Epicurean Group immediately began providing meals to evacuees and first responders at the Marin Center when the crisis began on Monday, October 9,” says Mary Clark Bartlett, CEO of Epicurean Group.

County administrators first asked Epicurean Group’s café staff at the county’s office complex to provide meals. When the demand grew beyond its kitchen capacity, food preparation operations moved to Epicurean Group’s larger kitchen nearby at Dominican University of California.

After some families found temporary housing elsewhere and began leaving the Marin Center, on Sunday, October 15, the evacuation center was moved to the former Golden Gate Baptist Seminary location 10 miles away. Epicurean Group continued to provide meal service at this site through Tuesday, October 17. On Wednesday, food service operations transferred to the Red Cross.

“Thanks to our many vendors, clients and community members who have contributed funds and in-kind services, and to our own service staff and resources, we have served more than 7,000 meals,” says Clark Bartlett. Epicurean Group’s “Fresh, Honest, Local” philosophy is deeply rooted in its socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices, Clark Bartlett says. “Supporting our Northern California community is integral to our business, whether we’re donating food service at local nonprofit benefit events or buying product from local farms, ranches and artisan producers.”

“We are grateful for the efforts of all the first responders,” says Vice-President and Corporate Executive Chef Phil Wright. “I’m very proud of our team members who quickly stepped up to work side by side with the Red Cross to support the needs of the evacuees and the Marin County Sheriff’s Department.”

Wright, who planned and directed the Epicurean Group team effort, said that after talking to Red Cross coordinators and to the evacuees, his chefs were able to tailor dishes to their preferences. “Just like at our corporate and education accounts, our chefs prepared fresh hot meals featuring familiar food. We could see how comforting this approach was and how much these meals lifted everyone’s spirits.” Many of the evacuees thanked Wright and his team, expressing their gratitude for the food that Epicurean Group was serving to them and their families who were sheltering there.

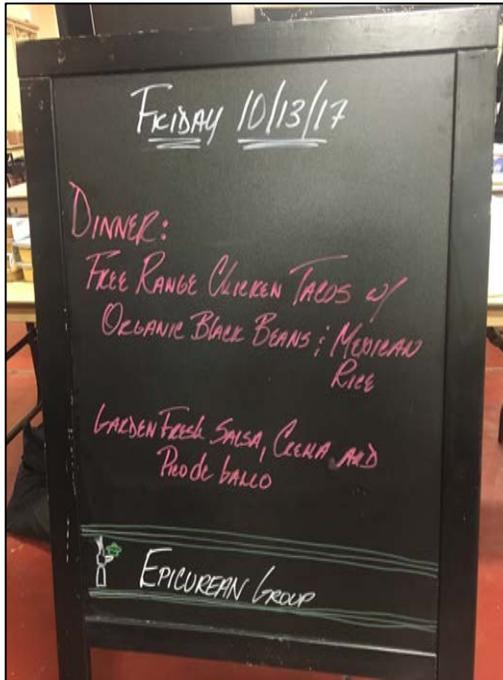
Epicurean Group is an independent food-service management company that provides restaurant and catering services to corporations, educational campuses, and fine arts facilities throughout Northern California. Founded in 2003, Epicurean Group is committed to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices. Epicurean Group is ... Fresh. Honest. Local.



*Left:
Phil Wright, Epicurean Group vice-president and corporate executive chef, stands together with Marin County Sheriff's Office first responders at the Marin Center evacuation site.*

*Below:
The Epicurean Group relief team prepares to serve dinner at the Marin Center shelter.*





Left:
An Epicurean Group blackboard announces a dinner of free-range chicken tacos and organic beans and rice to North Bay fire evacuees.

Below:
Epicurean Group chefs and staff prepare healthy hot meals for victims of the North Bay fires in the Dominican University of California kitchen.

