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Building Holiday Spirits with Gingerbread Houses

*Bredenbeck's Bakery Begins Gingerbread House Production;
Local Charities Benefit*



Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill), PA— Who says that building a house can't be fun and simple...especially when it's a gingerbread house?! Gingerbread house baking is in full swing at Chestnut Hill's Bredenbeck's Bakery, which will produce more than 400 houses this holiday season. But baking's not the only thing happening; gingerbread season brings about a whirlwind of activities for bakery staff.

The bakery started by raising spirits of local folks by donating more than 20 of the houses to a nearby charity. Karen Rohde, owner of Bredenbeck's, recently hosted her annual gingerbread house-decorating party with friends and family. The fruits—or more appropriately, sweets—of their labor have been donated to Laurel House, a Montgomery County domestic violence shelter.

“For many people, gingerbread houses bring back beloved holiday memories” says Rohde. “We want to do our part in bringing those good memories to people in need.”

The Montgomery County SPCA will also benefit. Bredenbeck's has partnered with Chestnut Hill's The Bone Appetite pet boutique to raffle off one of the houses. Raffle ticket proceeds will go toward food and care for shelter animals.

The houses also foster the spirit of competition for Bredenbeck's employees. More than 20 bakery staff members have done their part to festively decorate Bredenbeck's front window by each creating a house for display. The designs range from adorable and delicate to funky, and truly reflect the personalities of the bakery's employees.

And when it comes to creating the houses for customers, they are made to suit all audiences. Undecorated houses are available to those who wish to try their hand at creating their own, and those who prefer the finished version can order it beautifully decorated, and even personalized.

Some local businesses recognize the joy brought by the houses; several businesses have ordered assembled them as centerpieces for their holiday parties, and a local historical society will host a gingerbread house decorating party.

Planning on decorating your own house? Bredenbeck's has some recommendations for treats to make it look just right! Try using gumdrops, chocolate non-pariels, mini candy canes, pretzel sticks, coconut or marshmallows to decorate the house. Cover an upside-down sugar cone with green icing and sprinkles to create a pine tree. The options are endless!

Undecorated houses can be ordered from Bredenbeck's for \$22.95. Add a pint of Royal Icing and decorating bags for \$5.95, or a quart for \$9.95. Decorated houses are \$48.95; personalization is an additional \$5. Call 215-247-7374 to order.

A Philadelphia tradition since 1889, Bredenbeck's Bakery creates its delicious cookies, cakes, pies and pastries from scratch, using the finest all-natural ingredients. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill, Bredenbeck's is famous for its delicious butter cookies, fancy miniatures and gourmet wedding cakes, all baked on premises. Visit www.bredenbecks.com, call us at 215-247-7374, or stop on by to taste for yourself! Our historic shop is located at 8126 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

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