

# Home Cooked Meals From Amelia's Place.... *At Your Place!*

By Eric Feigenbaum

The Halloran family wants to make you dinner. They'll make you lunch too if you like. And it'll be the kind of home-cooked American meal that mom, or the fantasy mom in your head would have made when you were young. It's that sit-down at the table with the whole family after a long day of work and school kind of meal.

Andrea Halloran and her family opened Amelia's Place in December to offer their family's recipes and flare for cooking to the people of the San Fernando Valley. And while they've started out with a mostly take-out business, their pride and joy is their weekly meal service.



Each week, Halloran develops a unique menu with meals planned for each day. Customers can choose either a 3 entrée or 5 entrée option.. The entire Halloran family - Andrea, husband, children and mother - make it all Fridays and deliver Saturdays - throughout the greater Los Angeles area. With special containers that can be either oven heated or microwaved, customers can conveniently heat and enjoy - at home, work or wherever.

Halloran's concept is that in a world of busy professionals, an increasingly elderly population and people too busy to grocery shop and make good home-cooked meals, she affordably eliminates all the time and effort. the cost for one person is \$90 for 3-entrée and \$125 for 5-entrée. For just over \$200 per week, people get a week's worth of meals that typically serve two.

And what meals they are. Southern barbecue ribs, fried chicken wings, tri-tip, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, collard greens, mixed vegetables, salads, soups, baked beans, mac and cheese, peach cobbler, Jack Daniels bread pudding, sweet

potato pie, and much more. Individual take-out meals run between \$7.50 and \$12.

Perhaps what makes the food so great isn't just the carefully chosen ingredients or even the flavorful recipes but the love that goes into it. The kitchen at Amelia's place is a combination of new equipment along with the contributions of three generations - the stove belonged to Halloran's grandmother, Amelia, the refrigerator and food preparation table came from her mother's commercial kitchen in Watts, and countertop mixers come from all of their homes. It's a commercial kitchen with pieces of home and family - operated by family.

"It's a labor of love," Halloran explained. "And I have a very supportive husband."

Anyone visiting Amelia's place to pick up take-out or to make arrangements for meal service or catering will feel the warmth and personal attention from the Hallorans. In part, it's because to Andrea Halloran, Amelia's Place is a dream come true.

After years working in insurance, she came to realize her passion was in continuing her mother and grandmother's legacy of restaurants and entrepreneurship. With her family's help and support she worked for three years to create the business as it now stands.

"The lesson was something my mother told me - 'Don't wait until you're 50 to follow a dream.'"



*Amelia's Place is located at 19520-4 Nordhoff St. across from the Northridge Mall and can be reached by phone at 818-717-8782 or found on the Internet at [www.ameliaplace.net](http://www.ameliaplace.net).*