

## Willington Pizza

The Relay for Life was in full swing and Jeff Kelly, owner and President of Willington Pizza and his lovely wife, Tonja, stood at their usual places - behind a large table serving a delicious full course lasagna dinner that Willington Pizza had once again donated for cancer survivors. Jeff and his Willington Pizza team (Marc Amtower, General Manager, Rich Rogers, Chef and John Prandy, General Manager, Willington Pizza Too) never miss an opportunity to support community events and fundraisers with donations of food and gift certificates. Each year, Jeff sponsors over 30 local sports teams, school reading programs and 4 different project graduations.

It's hard to believe, but the restaurant that made Willington famous will turn thirty-four in August. Willington Pizza opened in 1978 as a 12 seat take-out operation. Business has been good not only for Jeff, but for also for Willington. By hard work and devotion to customer service, Jeff expanded the enterprise into a 200-plus-seat restaurant featuring a full menu of specialty pizzas, entrees, and appetizers. To meet ever-growing demand, Jeff opened Willington Pizza Too at Phelps Crossing in 1988. Jeff has 65 employees.

In addition to great food, drink and service, there is another draw for customers - the atmosphere. Willington Pizza is housed in a 250-year-old farmhouse at 25 River Road. Antiques cover all the walls. One could spend days perusing the collection of signs and other historic paraphernalia. Looking for a sportier atmosphere? Head on down to Willington Too and dine while watching the game. Buffalo Wings, Onion Rings, and the finest draft beers go great with Monday Night Football and, of course, UCONN Basketball.

Just how successful and famous is Willington Pizza? Every year since 1993, Pizza Today Magazine, the industry's leading publication, has selected Willington Pizza as one of the Top 100 Independent Pizza Restaurants in the U.S. It has enjoyed national coverage in The New York Times, Good Morning America, and CBS This Morning. Not surprisingly, at the National Pizza Festival Contest in 1994, took top honors in two categories "best exotic pizza" (Red Potato Pizza) and "best Seafood Pizza" (Seafood Casino Pizza). These two pizzas were then featured at the Pizza Expo in Las Vegas. Perennially, Willington Pizza is voted best pizza in Tolland County by the readers of Connecticut Magazine and by University of Connecticut students in Daily Campus surveys.

Willington is indeed lucky to be the home of this successful business.

