

# Kitchen magicians

## Food entrepreneurs turning Lake County into a cornucopia

By Barbara Revsine

Lake County is home to a growing number of gourmet food companies, and while each of them has a slightly different history, most began with a recipe, the kind of recipe that friends and family found absolutely addictive.

For Highland Park resident Carol Goldman, owner of Carol's Cookies, it was a recipe for oversized chocolate chip-walnut cookies.

At her friends' urging, she asked Walter Ori, the deli manager at Sunset Foods in Highland Park, if he'd be interested in stocking them. Seated in an office scented with the aroma of freshly baked cookies, Goldman recalled, "He told me to bring in a few dozen cookies the next day, but instead I brought in 50 pounds. They sold out by noon, and Walter told me to go home and start baking."

Ten years and millions of cookies later, production averages 25,000 cookies a week, give or take a batch or two. Even though the company now has five employees, a nine-cookie repertoire, and distribution throughout the Chicago area, as well as in parts of Michigan and in Neiman Marcus stores nationwide, Goldman insists on mixing all of



Tribune photo by Jim Robinson

Maria Reid of Lincolnshire makes salsa.

the dough herself and maintains that no one else knows the recipes. She has, however, included them in her will. (The cookies sell for \$5.98 a pound.)

Lake Forest resident Trisha Anderson started making soups while living in Minnesota. So when she developed a dried, 11-bean soup



Tribune photo by Bob Langlo

Carol Goldman does cookies in Highland Park.

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