

30th annual EATS fundraiser coming to UW Marathon County

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Written by [Keith Uhlig](#) Daily Herald Media

If you go

What: EATS — Educational Assistance Through Scholarships

When: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday (doors will open by 6 p.m. for silent auction)

Where: University of Wisconsin Marathon County, 518 S. Seventh Ave., Wausau

Cost: \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door

To learn more: For more information and/or to register online, visit

www.uwmcEATS.com or contact Zweck at 715-261-6280 or

brad.zweck@uw.edu.

You should know: Event features food, drink, music and a silent auction



Good EATS: Megan Curtes, owner of Be Well Bakeshop and an employee of Downtown Grocery, both participants in Education Assistance Through Scholarships (EATS), talks about her participation in the fundraiser for scholarships at UWMC. / Dan Young/Daily Herald Media



A baker works Monday at Downtown Grocery in Wausau, one of the participants in the EATS fundraiser for the University of Wisconsin Marathon County. / Dan Young/Daily Herald Media

For three decades, Wausau-area chefs have served up their best bites at the University of Wisconsin Marathon County's annual fundraiser.

The tradition continues with the 30th annual EATS — Educational Assistance Through Scholarships — which will be held Saturday on the UWMC campus. More than 35 chefs and cooks will offer appetizers, soups, entrees and desserts, and the event also will feature live music, a silent auction, local beer by Bull Falls Brewery and a diverse selection of wines from Trig's Cellar 70.

It's a fun party, organizers say, but the purpose is serious. Last year, more than 500 people attended the event and they raised nearly \$26,000 to support for students attending UWMC, said Brad Zweck, executive director of the UWMC Foundation. Proceeds from the event have ranged from \$20,000 to \$26,000 per year for the last decade or so. Attendance has ranged from 400 to 500 over the same time.

That money is important for students such as Blaine Gould, 19, a second-year UWMC student who plans to pursue civil or engineering at either UW-Madison or UW-Platteville next year. Gould received a \$250 scholarship that likely was supported by the EATS fundraiser, and he hopes to earn another scholarship for next year.

The money doesn't cover all of his bills, but it "meant a ton," Gould said, "especially with college costs being as high as they are."

Gould also is a second-year member of the EATS planning committee as part of a leadership program in which he is involved. Last year, he worked as a runner for the program, trying to learn what the event was all about.

"I had no clue as to what it was," Gould said.

After participating, "I thought it was excellent. Just to see how many people came, to help ... my generation of students," Gould said. "It's just amazing to see the support students get. It's a great boost to see that."

Wausau's Downtown Grocery has been participating in the event for at least seven years, said co-owner Kevin Korpela. The store will serve Three Sisters chili and Lumberjack bread — both made with hearty and healthy ingredients — at this year's event. For Korpela, the event offers an opportunity "to assist in a small way to provide a way to help bring more participation in education."

Megan Curtes, the owner of Be Well Bakeshop and an employee of Downtown Grocery, will serve her Denali brownies, a chocolate dessert with blueberries added to it.

"I believe in students being able to have the opportunity to go to school," Curtes said. "It's nice to help raise money for students to continue on. But it's a fun event, it's fun to mingle with other professional and amateur chefs. It's a really nice, warm atmosphere."



Kevin Korpela of Downtown Grocery, center, and Megan Curtes, right, of Be Well Bakeshop talk with Belinda Fechhelm of Marshfield at a wellness event. Both Korpela and Curtes will offer bites at Saturday's EATS event at UWMC. / Daily Herald Media file photo