

Gordon Food Service Marketplace: New store gets cooking at Golf Mill

By TRACY GRUEN Contributor

Gordon Food Service Marketplace will offer a unique shopping experience when it opens in the fall behind XSport Fitness in Niles, selling food items to both restaurants and customers.

GFS food products include prepared entrees such as lasagna, beef stew and sesame chicken, varied meat, poultry, seafood, produce, sandwiches, dessert and more. GFS Marketplace caters to the restaurant industry, but is patronized among community members, as well.



Mark Williams, of the Niles Teen Center, with two of the teenagers who helped create the welcome message on the concrete. | Contributed photo

The company started more than 100 years ago and reports to be the fourth-largest family-owned food distributor to the restaurant trade in North America.

The 15,000-square-foot store is expected to open in October near Milwaukee and Church, the location of the former Golf Mill movie theater. It will be the 13th location in Chicagoland and the 134th store.

Similar to Costco and Sam's Club, most of the items are sold in large sizes, but there is no membership fee at GFS Marketplace.

"You'll find chefs shopping along with a mother of a family of four," GFS spokesman Mark Dempsey said of the unique atmosphere at GFS. "Five-pound containers are great for feeding a family or for a dinner party."

Dempsey said "foodies" tend to really love the store because they can get access to food items that they've seen on TV's Food Network or at their favorite restaurants.

"GFS Marketplace brings a great value to Niles and the shoppers," said Regina Verdico, director of marketing for Golf Mill Shopping Center. "From the products they offer and the service they provide, they are an excellent fit for the community. Their community outreach is very valuable for the Niles community, as well."

Teenagers from the Niles Teen Center at Golf Mill helped decorate the parking lot and develop a welcome sign, and in return GFS presented a \$200 donation to the Teen Center at a recent groundbreaking ceremony.

GFS is also expected to create four management positions and 30 sales-associate jobs. Verdico said it is great that the company will bring so many jobs to Niles.

"We allow the local managers to determine what their local community needs most," Dempsey said.

Dempsey said there is a potential to attract customers that existing stores in the area may not serve.