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Division 1 employees brought dishes typical of their countries or regions of origin, including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Africa, the Philippines and American Soul food.



PHOTOS: BETH KRANDA

Ethnic Food Dishes Bridge Cultural Chasms at Division 1

By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Sept. 21, 2004) Division 1 has decided to bridge cultural chasms, one dish at a time.

Operators Addie Allison, Rose Munford, Sandra McGhee and Lisa Altillano collaborated with Transportation Manager Sonja Owens to organize the division's first International Food Festival.

Participants brought dishes typical of their countries of origin, giving everyone in the division an opportunity to taste the flavors of the world.

Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Africa and the Philippines were a few of the countries represented at the Sept. 3 event.

"If anything can bring people together and put a smile on their face, it's food," Owens says.

Crew held fundraisers

The coordinating crew held fundraisers for about six weeks to plan for the event. Each week they sold plates of spaghetti, hot links and macaroni and cheese.

With the money raised they were able to



Operator Roberto Ramirez has a plate full of festival goodies. Below, Operator Jaime Figueroa is in charge of music for the festival.

purchase all the meat, utensils, decorations and desert. Each table was set and anchored with a centerpiece symbolizing each country, or in some cases a continent.

"It turned out well," says McGhee, who helped run the fundraisers. "There was a lot of participation from employees."

Transportation joined the maintenance crew and enjoyed the festivities with their children and spouses. There was plenty of food, music and karaoke to commence the long weekend.



Owens promised to make this an annual event.

"It's a celebration of sisterhood and brotherhood," she says. "And what better way of bringing everyone together than with food and music."



Several hundred
Division 1
employees
enjoyed the
International
Food Festival.