



Momcorn: A-maize-ing Mexican Food

Spread the word from ear to ear, Momcorn is Gurnee's own authentic-Mexican and family-friendly restaurant. Located at 5101 Washington Street, the charming business resides at Suite #2 in Saratoga Square. Restaurant owner Sergio Rivera, who is fluent in four languages and fancies himself a good pun, wanted to create a business with delicious food and a name that would stick.

"Corn is a mother grain. It's a very important food source all around the world. Everybody knows popcorn, so why don't we say 'momcorn'?" says co-owner, longtime friend and former teacher Kathy Ross.

Delightfully corny in both food and philosophies, Momcorn has an environment that welcomes everyone. When Rivera and Ross began noticing that parents and kids had different pallets, they changed two things: outside food was allowed in, and a kids' menu was created with everything from "flauta dogs" to Mexican-style pizza.

"The tagline with that was we believe in family togetherness," says Ross.

The restaurant is not only welcoming to parents and kids though; vegetarian and gluten-free diners are offered a huge variety of tasty and authentic choices that are cooked in their own specified fryer. Momcorn can be found with apps like Find Me Gluten Free, and coupons have been offered through Recyclebank, coupon booklets and more.

"Coupons help, but because of who we are and what we are, people, once they try us, don't need a coupon to come back," Ross says confidently.

In addition to an avid presence through various forms of media like radio, apps and websites, Momcorn is also present in the community. Rivera and Ross not only cater school lunches, they also do birthday parties, special events and deliver around town.



"I was talking to this one table, and the mom said 'My daughter had your food at a birthday party and loved it' and that's why we're here," says Ross.

The community of Gurnee undoubtedly benefits from small, independent businesses like Momcorn, and they benefit from the community as well. When asked about what makes Gurnee a great place to be, Ross replied with the following:

"Gurnee's got a diverse population. There's a lot more business than I ever thought was out here. I was amazed... The other thing that should truly go at the top of the list is Gurnee has great people."

With the help of Gurnee's Got It in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, businesses like Momcorn are really getting their chance to pop.

Keep an eye out and an ear open for Momcorn at Gurnee Days coming up in August, or visit their website at www.momcorn.com.