Chef Davida Becenti cooks up community, life lessons through food
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Chef Davida Becenti is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has been a chef for over 20 years. She is known for her commitment to community-building through food. In her own words, “I believe that food has the power to bring people together and create a sense of belonging.”

Becenti’s passion for cooking and her desire to share her knowledge of the history and culture of food are evident in her work. She has established a community kitchen where she teaches cooking classes and hosts events that celebrate cultural diversity.

Her approach is not just about cooking, but about creating a space where people can come together, learn from each other, and build relationships. “I always tell my students, ‘You’re not just making food, you’re making memories and building community,’” she says.

The city of Albuquerque is known for its vibrant food scene, with a strong emphasis on local and sustainable cuisine. Becenti’s work is part of this larger movement, aiming to make food more accessible and inclusive for all.

Becenti’s philosophy is rooted in her own experiences. She grew up in a family where cooking was a central part of their lives. “Cooking was always a way for us to connect and feel loved,” she says. “That’s what I want to bring to the community through my work.”

The following week, Becenti plans to host another cooking class, where she will teach her students how to make a traditional New Mexican dish. “I want to share with them the history and cultural significance of the dish,” she says.

For Becenti, cooking is not just about the food, but about the stories and connections that are created. “It’s about bringing people together, creating a sense of belonging, and breaking down barriers,” she says.

Becenti’s work is a testament to the power of food to bring people together and create meaningful experiences. Her commitment to community-building through food is an inspiring example of how we can use our shared experiences around the table to build stronger, more connected communities.