[Why One Startup Is Offering Meals Made By Home Cooks And Middle-Schoolers](https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/05/19/476492503/why-one-startup-is-offering-meals-made-by-home-cooks-and-middle-schoolers)

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<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/476492503>

ARI SHAPIRO, HOST:

Not so long ago when fast food giants reigned supreme, takeout meant cheap, quick and probably greasy meals. Today, a lot of younger consumers say they want a different kind of fast food - fresh, healthy and, if possible, locally sourced. Youth Radio's Natalie Bettendorf takes us to Berkeley, Calif. - where else? - where one startup is betting it can succeed by encouraging aspiring chefs to use their own kitchens to cook for others.

NATALIE BETTENDORF, BYLINE: We're facing a kind of food revolution. And my generation is driving it. A recent Goldman Sachs report says that people under 35 want meals that are fresh, healthy and adventurous, as well as fast. Bad news for your typical burger joint. Good news for food entrepreneur Charley Wang.

CHARLEY WANG: We don't want something that, like, everyone and anyone can have. We want something that has soul, that has, like, personalization to it.

BETTENDORF: Wang is co-founder of a startup called Josephine. You can use the company's website to buy home-cooked meals from your neighbors. No drive-through required. And from the perspective of Josephine's contractors, the chefs, it's a quick entry into what's becoming known as the on-demand meal marketplace. All you need is Internet access and a kitchen. One of those home cooks is Renee McGhee.

On this particular day, in Berkeley, Calif., McGhee is stirring a giant pot of bean soup and scooping thick globs of cornbread batter into oversized muffin tins.

RENEE MCGHEE: You don't want to mix it too much. The lumps will bake out, and it'll be just fine.

BETTENDORF: Cooks for josephine.com hand over 10 percent of their revenue to the company in exchange for the use of their online ordering platform and marketing materials.