

Cafeteria buddies make donation to Mifflin

The 2001 and 2002 graduates enjoyed their time at lunch

BY BRETT HAMBRIGHT
READING EAGLE

It wasn't dinner at a four-star restaurant, but Gov. Mifflin High School graduate Josh Bugay still drove 75 miles for a chance to sample the cuisine.

It was a taste and a place he knew well.

Bugay, a 28-year-old corporate lawyer from Wilmington, Del., and five former classmates reunited Tuesday in the high school cafeteria for a chance to relive the lunch periods they remembered so fondly.

On the day's menu: the delectable chicken breast patty.

"There were some memorable meals and times we had there," Bugay said Thursday. "In school, you're always told what to do. Lunch was one of those few times you could have conversations not really relating to school subjects."

A couple months ago, Bugay said, the friends were reminiscing about lunch in



COURTESY OF KERI MORTON

Gov. Mifflin graduates donated to the high school's food services department. Standing, from left, are Jenelle Himmelreich, director of food services, and Josh Bugay, Doug Probstko, Keefe Richards and Geoff Bockelmann. Sitting are Chris Bugay, left, and Colin Waszkiewicz.

the Mifflin cafeteria. An idea was hatched: The guys would each chip in a few bucks in exchange for six trays of food.

Together, they ended up with \$500, which they donated to the school's food services department to feed

less-fortunate students.

Jenelle Himmelreich, Mifflin's food services director, said she was shocked when Bugay pitched the idea.

"I thought, 'Is this a joke?'" Himmelreich recalled of the conversation. "You always

have kids complaining about school lunches."

Not this group of 2001 and 2002 graduates.

"There were only a few meals we disliked," Bugay said.

Among the favorites were

the chicken fries, which Bugay described as chicken tenders "in a longer, spicier form," and tomato soup with cheesy bread. And then there was the treasured "pork chopette."

On Tuesday, the chicken patty satisfied just fine, Bugay said. Also on the menu were french fries, peas and milk.

"It was delicious," Bugay said.

Himmelreich said the donation offer was so bizarre that she had to contact administrators to see if she was allowed to accept it.

She was, and the Josh Bugay Lunch Account was born. Kids who don't qualify for discounted or free lunches will savor the benefits, she said.

"I see children sitting in my cafeterias all the time that don't have a lunch," she said. "Some people might be ashamed to apply for discount lunches."

Thanks to the donation, those kids will now sink their teeth into the chopette, chicken fries and the tasty soup-bread-cheese blend.

"And I still have those things on the menu," Himmelreich said.

Contact Brett Hambright: 610-371-5022 or bhambright@readingeagle.com.