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July 2013: A Helping Hand

"What can I do to help?" It was a simple question, but reflects when someone feels so connected to the university family that they want to do what they can to help in difficult times.

The university hit a difficult time when one of its members was killed in a car wreck recently. Various forms of fundraisers were held, organized by different groups or offices. Amidst it all, one UHCL alumna who happens to own a bakery asked a simple question: "What can I do to help?" She offered some of her nearly famous cupcakes and they sold quickly. And they were recognized.



People came by a bake sale table and asked, "Are those Cosmo's cupcakes?" It seems the delectable goodies have a following, and not surprisingly so. UHCL alumna Nina Valverde turned a great idea and incredible baking to an innovative place to eat and get to know people: Cosmo's Deli and Bakery. She has remained involved with the university as time permits, and has shared her story with students, fellow alumni and community members. When she heard about the loss in the university family, she immediately donated some of her cupcakes to help the sale that was to benefit the family. They sold out quickly.

Nina's sense of connection speaks volumes about the relationships that she forged while she was a student, and to the connections that were fostered with her as an alumna. Students are students for a few years, but alumni are alumni for life. It is a measure of how much someone feels connected and maintains a sense of ownership in the relationship when they instinctively say in troubled times, "What can I do to help?"

The university is fortunate to have so many members of its family of faculty, students, staff, alumni and donors who feel so connected as to reach out like Nina did. Thank you all.



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