



Lil Cupcake Girls

GABRIELA AND NATALIA MAESTRE

GABRIELA AND NATALIA Maestre are The Lil Cupcake Girls, 9-year-old twins with a knack for baking. They began learning their craft at the early age of 3 with the help of their grandmother and by age 6, they'd started their cupcake business.

At first the girls were baking for friends and family, but with the help of a growing social media presence, they now bake for parties and special events on the weekends. Gabriela and Natalia decided to donate all of their earnings to No Kid Hungry, an organization aimed at ending child hunger in the United States.

"We thought No Kid Hungry was perfect because kids giving back to kids is perfect," says Gabriela. "We wanted to give back to kids just

like us." In addition to donating their profits, the Lil Cupcake Girls attend media events to speak and raise awareness for their cause. In the past, they have partnered with Orlando celebrity chef Emily Ellyn and Jillian from JillyCakes to raise money for No Kid Hungry.

Since starting their business in 2013, the twins have raised more than \$4,000 in cupcake sales. The twins' mother, Lisette Maestre, says the number is bound to grow with the events and appearances the Lil Cupcake Girls have scheduled.

Their goal for 2015 is to raise \$2,500, and the girls are well on their way. For information on future bake sales or how to donate, visit lilcupcakegirls.com.

—Taissa Rebroff

Edible Orlando: What's your favorite cupcake flavor to bake?

Gabriela Maestre: It would be either red velvet or Nutella.

E0: Do you like to bake other goods besides cupcakes?

GM: When I was younger, yes. With my grandmother we used to bake all kinds of things. I used to bake a lot of cakes for competitions and for family birthdays. We still bake cakes, but mainly cupcakes now!

E0: Who's someone you admire, and why?

GM: I watch a lot of *Cupcake Wars* and a lot of baking shows, and I want to be like them, but I don't think I have a specific person.

E0: Do you want to keep baking as you get older?

GM: Yes! I want to be a baker. There are lots of things I want to learn how to bake.



Twins Natalia, left, and Gabriela Maestre