

# SHOW & TELL



School Nutrition's Secret Shopper sleuths discovered that Exhibit Hall vendors had plenty to show off at ANC 2019, in the heart of the "Show Me" state.

**WEARING CASUAL CLOTHES, COMFY WALKING SHOES AND EVEN SPORTING NAME BADGES**, they were the individuals you least expected to be part of an undercover operation. Blending easily into the Exhibit Hall crowds at SNA's 73rd Annual National Conference (ANC) in St. Louis last July, they were on a mission. As these individuals roamed the Exhibit Hall, they scrutinized the showcase's offerings to find the cream of the crop in school foodservice products, services, supplies and resources. The sleuths were part of *School Nutrition's* "Secret Shopper" initiative, now in its 10th year.

To help bring the best of the ANC Exhibit Hall home to readers who can't attend the event in person, the Secret Shopper program relies on interested conference attendees willing to peruse shiny equipment, munch menu offerings, review resources and select the standouts from thousands on display—relaying their findings back to *School Nutrition*, so that we can share these great picks with you!

The 2019 group of volunteer private eyes was comprised of individuals representing all levels of school nutrition operations, and each can be considered an expert in the field. They know what kids crave, what will make a successful program and what will improve a department's efficiency. Word-of-mouth referrals are often the best way to discover what's new and trendy, and their personal, peer-to-peer commentary may inspire you to investigate some of these product solutions for your own school nutrition operation. Take a gander at the list of standouts—gathered by school nutrition pros who know their stuff!

Make note of the specific options you find intriguing, and then visit the vendor's website to discover how to arrange for a food sample, schedule a demo or receive product literature for more detailed information. Put a tickler in your planner to follow up with your broker or distributor or to visit with these vendors personally at SNA's School Nutrition Industry Conference in January, its Virtual Expo in February or ANC 2020 in Nashville in July.



## Muffin Town

[www.muffintown.com](http://www.muffintown.com)  
Totality Bars from Muffin Town pack a nutritional punch in a small package. With fewer than 400 calories per bar and loaded with nutritious oats, SunButter and cranberries, this new breakfast energy bar helps feed on-the-go kids for a busy school day. For an easy breakfast, one Shopper suggests pairing the bar with a milk for "a complete breakfast!"

## Cargill, Inc.

[k12.shadybrookfarms.com](http://k12.shadybrookfarms.com)

Versatile is one word that can describe Cargill's Shady Brook Farms® line of turkey products. ("Great" is another word an SN Shopper used to describe them!) From the wide array of K-12 options—from crumbles to franks to slices—our Shopper's eyes were on a new unbreaded **Turkey Breast Strips** offering as an ideal "finger-food concept with a great nutritional profile." The company provides a wide range of accompanying recipes and menu suggestions, including ways to use the product "as dippers with various sauces." It promotes its products as being free of antibiotics, added hormones and steroids. Product details about this new item are not yet on the company's website; contact your Cargill Foodservice sales rep or KeyImpact broker rep for more information.



## Carter-Hoffmann Corp.

[www.carter-hoffmann.com/gardenchef](http://www.carter-hoffmann.com/gardenchef)  
Fresh herbs can turn a dish from dreary to dreamy, but it can be hard (and expensive) to maintain a consistent supply for the school cafeteria. But Carter-Hoffmann's innovative GardenChef Herb and Micro Green Growing Cabinets provide access to tasty herbs right within a school cafeteria. Says one Secret Shopper, "It is so awesome to be able to plant the items, watch them grow and be able to harvest [them] as needed to use in our programs." The double-door, stainless-steel cabinets have roll-out drawers, a large capacity and tempered glass doors so you (and your students) can watch the plants grow. They were a Secret Shopper pick in 2017, as well.

