



Brenner Brothers Bakery operated in Seattle's Central Area before moving to the Eastside.

An old family business keeps ovens and hearts warm, full time

BAKERS

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the Brenners have set up tables.

In addition to their loyal customers, the Brenners have accounts with most of the major supermarkets, including Safeway, Albertson's, QFC and Olsons.

"Everyone is family with us," said their sister Yetta, who is the chief clerk in the deli section. "I love my brothers, I love the business, I love my customers. I call it a labor of love."

Although he loves what he does now, Joe says he wasn't always thrilled about spending his life in a bakery.

"When I was in high school I swore I wasn't going to end up in this business. I went away to the Navy and came back, and my father said he needed my help. One

thing led to another and I am still here."

Still working 60 hours a week, still stirring dough. The work isn't easy, but the Brenners don't want to give it up.

Many Brenner children, grandchildren and relatives also have pitched in at the bakery. Charlie's daughter Betsy worked summers there to put herself through college. Today, she works for the *New York Times*.

Joe's son Adam, who also toiled in the bakery, is a rock musician who recently released an album under the name Adam Bomb.

Charley's son Alan and Itsey's son David work full time at the bakery. The Brenners expect them to take over the business, but not any time soon. None of the brothers has any plans to retire.

The Brenners' hard work has brought them success, but they haven't forgotten those less fortunate. Every Thursday they give a

truckload of bread to Neighbors in Need. Yetta says her brother Joe often gives dozens of doughnuts and other pastries to representatives of community organizations who walk in and ask for them.

"Our father told us you could never lose by helping someone out," Charlie said. "We were raised that way. It's our honor and pleasure to help someone out."

One recent night, one of the Brenners' drivers needed a place to stay because the weather was so bad he thought he might not be able to make it to work the next day. Charlie invited him, his wife and two children to stay at his house near the bakery.

Margie Detwiler, an employee of the Brenners for 25 years, says that is not uncommon.

"The Brenners have always been good to me," Detwiler said. "They treat their employees like family. They don't know how to treat people any other way."