

2026 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE

Marc Malnati — CLASS OF 1973

Marc Malnati, Chairman of Lou Malnati's Pizzerias, attended New Trier West High School before graduating from Indiana University in 1977- just eight months before the death of his father and company founder, Lou Malnati. Under Marc's leadership, Lou Malnati's experienced remarkable growth, expanding from two pizzerias to 62 throughout the Chicagoland area, and more recently in Arizona and Wisconsin.



Marc believes that culture is the cornerstone of any successful organization. He built a relational business model rooted in intentional investment in personal growth. As a result, management turnover at Malnati's has averaged only 7%-far below the restaurant industry average of 30%. Reflecting this commitment, Lou Malnati's was named a Chicago Tribune Top Workplace for the 16th consecutive year in 2025.

In 1996, Marc and his brother, Rick, received the Chicagoans of the Year award from *Chicago Magazine* for their involvement in the opening of a Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in Chicago's under-resourced Lawndale neighborhood. In 2017, they established the Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute to honor their family's 50+ years of support for cancer research, including an annual charity event that has raised upwards of \$10 million.

With the desire to grow the Lou Malnati's name, Marc appeared on numerous national television programs, including *Good Morning America*, *The Steve Harvey Show*, *Throwdown with Bobby Flay*, (where he defeated Flay handily), and finally the *Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, following Stewart's affront to Chicago-style deep-dish pizza.

In 2025, Marc authored, *Deep Dish: Inside the First 50 Years of Lou Malnati's Pizza*, chronicling the values, culture, and principles that have sustained the restaurant's success for over half a century. Marc credits Jeanne, his wife of 46 years, with being the glue that has held their family together and pushed him to be both a better leader and father. They both share a deep faith and dependence on God.

Marc and Jeanne still live on the North Shore. They have three adult children - all New Trier graduates - and eight grandchildren. Their oldest grandchild, Lucy Howell, is currently a sophomore Trevian.

