



## **Brock's Spreads Love, Generosity Through Music, Food**

**BY ASHLEY INGE**

*Staff Writer*

What started out as a venue that was used specifically to give away free Thanksgiving meals has now turned into Brock's Food & Drinks, a popular family-owned restaurant and bar that showcases live music by local and well-known performers six days a week.

Brock's is only eight months old, and owner James Brock has been surprised at how popular his restaurant has become in such a short time.

In fact, his original idea was entirely selfless, aimed at helping feed members of the community.

"Every year at Thanksgiving we feed 1,000 people for free," he said. "This was our fifth year to feed people in Granbury at Thanksgiving. Food can bring a lot of joy and help a lot of people. When we decided to do the thing at Thanksgiving, I thought, 'How can we do that?' That's when Bob Wherry who owned the Rib Shack said we could use this building and I said, 'I would really like to have this place so I could do it all of the time.' Through Bob letting us use this restaurant, we started our Thanksgiving program to feed everybody."

After five years, Brock purchased the building and remodeled it. Over the years, Brock has built a bar, indoor and outdoor stages and is currently working on building a new kitchen and a new outdoor cooking area. Through the influx of new customers, Brock had to build a 25,000 square foot parking lot to help with overcrowding.

"I had a number (of customers) in my head that I thought if we could hit that number, we would be fantastic, but we're four or five times over that," Brock said. "We're going to cook over 100 tons of meat this year. We're not a little restaurant; we're big. We're a big-little restaurant."

### **GENEROUS HEART**

Brock is always willing to help out local residents in need. During the big freeze in February, people in Hood County were without power, food and water.

"We fed almost 1,000 people for free," he said. "We put a thing up on Facebook saying, 'If anybody needs food, come and eat.'"

After school ends in May, Brock has set a goal to give away 15,000 breakfast tacos this summer to kids who may struggle with having enough food outside of school.

Brock also serves food to first responders and to churches every week for free.

"They're putting their life on the line every day. We appreciate what they do. We're trying to build an environment here," he said. "I want to try to give back, be a good person, do what's right and be kind."

This has given me the opportunity to do that.”

“Every year, anybody in the community who ever needed help, Brock was one of the first ones in the community to step up,” said Texas country musician Randy Brown. “Brock has always done the turkey thing on Thanksgiving and he is always about giving back and taking care of people.”

#### LOVE FOR MUSIC

Brock is also a songwriter, so music has a special place in his heart. During COVID-19, a lot of local musicians didn’t have a place to play. Brock opened his doors to artists and now music is a regular staple, with musicians like Kim Yokum, Steve Helms and Brett Watts gracing the stage to play their musical hits.

“We have real big names coming in, some of them we can’t announce yet,” he said. “We’re working on Gary P. Nunn to come in. The music is where my heart lies because I’m a writer. We also try to support our local musicians so we have all these local ones who don’t have a place to play. We wanted to bring good, live music to Granbury and a chance where they could go out with their kids and feel safe.”

“He’s been in my life since I was about 12 or 13 so we’ve been lifelong friends,” Brown said. “He’s traveled a bunch and he’s a big fan of the music. The real love of it though is giving back, entertaining people, seeing people happy, having fun and creating that fellowship experience and the wonderful love that Texas music and Texas cuisine share. After all these years he’s finally getting to do it his way. He’s seen music in every genre and he knows what works and what brings people together and he’s finally got that place where he can do it all.”

Tonight from 7-9 p.m., Brock’s Food & Drinks is kicking off its Hank FM 92.1 outdoor concert series with a performance by Rodney Parker. The concert series, Hank Jam, will take place every Wednesday night for 12 weeks.

Brown’s next performance at Brock’s will be on Saturday, May 8.

#### FANTASTIC FOOD

Brock said when the weather is beautiful, the lawn is packed with customers enjoying a nice evening outside, great music and delicious food.

“We have shrimp boil, crawfish boil, we have quail on Wednesday, Taco Tuesday, but we also have great barbecue, Texas gulf shrimp — we sell out of those every week. We do one pound ribeye grilled over pecan wood and we sell out by 7:30. We sell a lot of hamburgers too,” he said. “Not to brag, but we have the best food in town, but we also try really hard. We work day and night.”

“Nobody gives him (Brock) as much credit for the cooking aspect as he should get,” Brown said. “He’s an amazing chef. He’s taught me so much about cooking and it’s hard to beat his cooking; he’s that good.”

Brock’s Food & Drinks became one of the winners of the 2020 Granbury Foodie Trail with its “Trash Can Nachos.”

The top 12 dishes from favorite local restaurants were chosen from nearly 500 votes for the Granbury Foodie Trail.

Individuals can download the “I Love Granbury” phone app and begin keeping track of the restaurants

they visit in 2021 — including Brock's — from January through December. They can also pick up a punch-card from participating locations or the Visit Granbury office.

For those who visit all 12 restaurants — by either checking in on the app or having a hole punched at each location — they can earn a Foodie Trail T-shirt and be entered into a drawing for a \$200 gift certificate when they return their card.

"I've been blessed," Brock added. "I'm enjoying what I'm doing and I'm excited about the growth and the future. It (Brock's) is just a good place to listen to some nice acoustic music, have a drink and have some good food. There's a lot to do, but I think we'll get there."

Brown added, "This has been a dream of his for a long time. My hobby now is, I like to listen to good music, be around friends in a good atmosphere while I drink a good beer and there's not a better place than Brock's to do that up here in North Texas. I wish him all the luck in the world for everything he's doing."