

# Muffin Tin - a community gathering place



*Muffin Tin owner Mary Mabeesh displays homemade muffins hot out of the oven.*

## BY MARJORIE GOLUB

The Muffin Tin Restaurant in Pinecrest is more than just a place to munch a muffin. It also offers customers breakfast and lunch and serves as a meeting place for locals.

The family style restaurant has been around for a long time and for the last 10 years has been owned and operated by Mike and Mary Mabeesh.

"We are known for the muffins," said Mary Mabeesh. "But we've got everything from eggs and omelets to French toast and waffles."

Mabeesh boasts that everything served at the Muffin Tin is homemade.

"We do everything from scratch," she said. "Nothing is bought and nothing is made from frozen parts."

A lunch at the Muffin Tin, 12655 S. Dixie Hwy., may include hot platters such as turkey, roast beef and homemade meatloaf. And the restaurant serves a variety of sandwiches. Breakfast and lunch also are very reasonably priced, especially when you consider that every dish is homemade and served fresh.

"It's not that expensive and is in the range of the neighborhood," said Mabeesh.

"We charge \$5.25 for soup and sandwich, and chips, coleslaw or potato salad come with it."

More than just the food though, the

Muffin Tin, open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., provides a service to the community by providing nourishment to early morning commuters, many arriving before the doors open. And the restaurant is a mainstay for the regular patrons who enjoy talking to the waitresses or meeting with friends and colleagues.

"Some customers come in everyday and the waitresses already know what they want to have," said Mabeesh. "There are a lot of dedicated customers and it's nice to go to a place where everybody knows you and you get special service."

Joe Raccuia is one of those customers who visits the restaurant every day.

"This is one of the best restaurants in town," said Raccuia. "The muffins are great. The country sausage and gravy is on a level all it's own. It's wonderful and the people here are really nice."

And the best part of working at the Muffin Tin for Mabeesh is meeting all people in the neighborhood who come in to dine.

"It's like a community gathering in here," she said. "You get all kinds of people. People come in here meet each other and talk. And I enjoy the people, so that makes a difference. We try to please everybody."

For more information contact: (305) 235-9020.