

COVID-19

Family steps up for workers

By Dennis L. Taylor

dtaylor@montereyherald.com

MONTEREY » When Chris and Sabu Shake sat down together shortly after the shelter-in-place order was issued and they were forced to close their four restaurants and transition two of them to take-out, the one piece of business the brothers decided on right off the bat was the need to take care of their restaurant employees.

All 400 of them. Each day, seven days a week, they can count

on hot meals.

The Shakes are partners in Restaurant Pacific Group, which owns Old Fisherman's Grotto, Scales, and The Fish Hopper in Monterey, and another Fish Hopper overlooking Kailua Bay in Kona, Hawaii. Only the Grotto and Scales remain open for to-go orders.

On Monday Chris Shake was quick to credit vendors like Sysco and PepsiCo for donating food and bottled water, as well as customers dropping off checks for a couple of hundred dollars or

in one case \$2,000 to help offset the hardships workers face since Monterey County issued the stay-at-home order.

He was hesitant to talk about how much he and Sabu Shake are spending to provide a daily meal for 400 people, but the math isn't hard to figure out. They are spending thousands every day at a time when revenue has plummeted to near nothing. But they didn't stop there. They are also feeding the nearby homeless and sending food over to people in

FARMERS » PAGE 4



A statue of Sabu Shake Sr. stands guard outside the Old Fisherman's Grotto in 2009. The restaurant is one of those owned by the Shakes that is providing meals for its employees.

MONTEREY HERALD ARCHIVE