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Nationally acclaimed food safety expert Cindy Rice-Andrea launches innovative book series for children

BRAINTREE, MA, ISSUED DECEMBER 30, 2009...Nationally recognized food safety expert Cindy Rice-Andrea today announced the launch of an innovative book series, Green Apple Tales, aimed at educating parents and their children ages 3-10, on the topic of food safety.

Rice- Andrea, founded Eastern Mass Food Safety (www.easternmassfoodsafety.com) in 2002 and led it to become New England's leader in ServSafe training, as well as food manager certification and consultation. Her parent company, Dining in the Light, Inc., is publishing the Green Apple Tales (www.greenappletales.com) book series. She will market the books to schools, libraries, parents, doctors, dentists, child care organizations, mothers' groups, and organizations with a general commitment to educating children and families on the vital topic of health and food safety.

Her extensive food safety background led her to create this book series, whose message is "Helping to keep our families safe...one story at a time."

She created the book series to address a void in the market, she said. "A great deal of work in food safety is focused on training the foodservice industry, including those responsible for food safety in restaurants, hospitals, schools and manufacturing operations." She added, "However, there is somewhat of a gap in educating consumers- parents, children, the elderly. The industry has done a good job educating those who prepare and handle food in foodservice settings, but that still leaves some missing pieces in the area of food preparation at home. "

In addition to valuable information, there is a cooking activity, and more in-depth discussion in each book, that serves to further illustrate the message of the individual story.

The following is a list and summary of each book.

Delilah Washes her Hands (Principle to be taught: Handwashing)

Delilah loves going to the playground with her friends. But her lunch is ready and there is one important thing she must do before she eats. Do you know what it is?

Pansy's Garden Party (Principle: Temperature controls of Foods)

Pansy the Pig loves giving parties! But what happens when she leaves her party foods out in the summer sun for too long? You'll find out and see how her friend comes to the rescue!

Gabby's Sore Throat and the Cherry Chocolate Cupcakes (Principle: Illness behavior)

Gabby the Goose is coming down with a cold, but she is supposed to make cupcakes for her friend's party. Can she still go to the party if she is sick? Who will make the cupcakes? And what is the best way for her to cough and sneeze?

Tony the Pony's Big Dream (Principle: Preventing cross-contamination)

Tony the Pony has a big dream.... he wants to be a rootin' tootin' cowboy! See how he lives the cowboy life, and what he does for fun with his 2 brothers. And how does he keep the foods he is cooking for their Rodeo dinner safe and delicious? Yee- haa!

Roxy and Zav's Barbecue (Principle: Proper cooking temperatures)

Roxy Raccoon has a pleasant surprise while she is relaxing by the river. What will her new friend Zav cook at their barbecue picnic, and are these strange, delicious foods safe to eat?

Allergy Buddy Club (Principle: Allergen safety)

Ollie the elephant and his 2 friends Bruno and Maleeka are very sad. They are each allergic to a certain food that they love, and they must find ways to protect themselves from getting sick from these foods. Find out how they solve their problems, make new friends and help others along the way.

Speedo Tito's Sunset Party (Principle: Safe food preparation practices)

Speedo Tito is not like any other turtle... he is very fast! Discover how he throws a fabulous party for his friends, but what happens when he is done with all of the preparations for the party? And how do his friends help him safely enjoy his own party foods in the end?

Chickita's Salads (Principle: Produce safety)

Chickita is a little chicken who just loves to eat fruits and veggies. But how to keep them fresh and delicious? Watch her prepare some of her mother's fruit specialties for her Nana and Papa, and see how she keeps her favorite foods safe until their visit.

Cristabel's Supermarket Spree (Principle: Shopping safety)

Cristabel the Cow goes food shopping with her father, which makes her very cheerful and laugh out loud! Learn about the special dinner they will make, and why her visit to the playground will have to wait.

Sam's Pizza Pies (Principle: Personal safety, Burns, cuts)

Sam the Lamb is an expert pizza maker! See how he stretches, flips and spins the dough to make the perfect pizza for his friends. But he needs a helping hand from his Grampa Sam to stay safe from burns and cuts during the process! How does Grampa Sam help make the party a success?

The first six in the series are in print and the others are expected to be available in early 2010. Books are available at list price of \$8.95 each and can be purchased online by visiting www.greenappletales.com.

Rice-Andrea's background includes conducting food protection management classes and seminars, and trains and certifies foodhandlers in accordance with state and federal regulations. She is a national speaker and author on the topic of food safety, a food safety consultant for ECOLAB and regular contributor for their publication "Food Safety Solutions." Rice-Andrea holds numerous food safety and public health certifications from state and national organizations.

Of the book series, she said, "There are many questions that people may have when it comes to food safety in the home and the schools. How long can food be left out at room temperature, for example? What is the best way to wash hands? What constitutes a healthy or sanitary environment? What are the steps that families can take to ensure that the food they eat is prepared safely?"

For additional information, please call Cindy Rice-Andrea, President, at 781-356-1467 or e-mail, info@easternmassfoodsafety.com.

(Editors: To schedule an interview with Cindy Rice-Andrea, or to review one or more books, please contact Jim Farrell at 781-681-6616 or Colleen Cimini at 781-982-5557).