

Specialty Distributors & Brands

BRIEFS

FunkyChunky expands Midwest distribution

EDINA, Minn.—B&B Foods and Maria Green and Associates are distributing FunkyChunky gourmet snacks in the Midwest.

B&B Specialty Foods is representing FunkyChunky sweet snacks in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and part of Wisconsin. Maria Green & Associates is distributing to Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. The specialty snack line, including chocolate-covered popcorn, pretzels, nuts and dried fruits is also available at Home Outfitters in Canada through Dorsey Marketing Inc. of St. Laurent, Quebec, according to a company statement.

Based here, FunkyChunky is also available at specialty retailers such as Balducci's, Henri Bendel, Byerly's, Lunds, Kowalski's Market and The Fresh Market.

DPI distributes Sticky Fingers in Mid-Atlantic

SPOKANE, Wash.—Distribution Plus Inc. is distributing Sticky Fingers Bakeries Specialty Foods Inc.'s baking mixes to Whole Foods Market Inc. stores in the Mid-Atlantic region.

DPI, Evanston, Ill., is distributing Sticky Fingers Bakeries' Lemon Poppyseed, Wild Blueberry, Apple Cinnamon, and Original English Scone mixes to 30 Whole Foods stores from its Mid-Atlantic facilities in Marlboro, Md., according to a prepared statement.

Sticky Fingers, based here, is the maker of all-natural scone, muffin, bread and brownie mixes, as well as all-natural curds and jams.

Halutza Israeli Olive Oil expands in Canada

NEW YORK—Halutza Israeli Olive Oil Co., producer of kosher and organic olive oils and olives, is expanding its distribution in Canada with representation by Importations Tribeca Inc. of Montreal.

Importations Tribeca, an importer and distributor of gourmet products for upscale retailers in Quebec, carries Halutza Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil as well as Halutza whole green olives, pitted green olives and pitted black olives in 18-ounce barrel shaped cans, according to a prepared statement.

Israel-based Halutza, imports premium and USDA organic extra virgin olive oils and olives. Its U.S. headquarters is based here.

Chex Finer Foods readies for trade show at Twin River Casino

BY KATIE GALLAGHER

LINCOLN, R.I.—Chex Finer Foods is moving its annual trade show to Twin River Casino here March 11-12 to make room for new vendors and more attendees.

For the past 16 years, the specialty food distributor has hosted its tabletop show at its headquarters in Attleboro, Mass. This year, Chex needs more space to accommodate more than 150 vendors—an increase of about 10 percent from last year, according to Mike Isenberg, vice president.

"We're growing our business and are trying to do more for our customers," Isenberg said. "We wanted to create energy and excitement at a better facility."

With a 20 percent larger footprint, Twin River is the right spot for its 2008 Mardi Gras-themed show, Isenberg said. "The room is very colorful and the casino offers more than 200,000 square feet of gaming space," he said. "It will be a very vibrant and active show so we wanted a theme that would fit." Because of the larger space, vendors will have larger



Chex will move its annual trade show to Twin River Casino from its warehouse in Attleboro, Mass.

Classic Provisions gains new ownership, focuses on local products

BY KATIE GALLAGHER

PLYMOUTH, Minn.—As the new majority owner and CEO of Classic Provisions here, John Byom sees expansion on the horizon for the specialty food distributor.

After closing on the deal Oct. 25, Byom is working to expand Classic Provision's product selection, focusing on adding local as well as artisanal items such as cheeses and olive oils, he said. His experience in the food industry and childhood memories of growing up on a



Classic Provisions focuses on artisan cheesemakers such as Natural Valley from Cashton, Wis., pictured above.

third-generation Holstein dairy farm inspired him to own his own food business.

Through business networks, he met and partnered with Sally Witham, who continues as president, chief operating officer as well as part owner of the distributor. "I was looking

UNFI stocks specialty products, targets supermarkets after closing on Millb...