

READY, SET... BAKE!

Katy Taylor football team serves some mean cookies

By **KAREN ZURAWSKI**
Houston Chronicle

Members of the Katy-Taylor High School football squad recently traded helmets and pads for hairnets and aprons.

They left their comfort zone on the playing field to venture to the River Oaks kitchen of Diet Gourmet to help the Gingersnap Project, which is in its fifth year raising funds for The Center Serving Persons with Mental Retardation.

"We just had a total blast," said Janet Burkett, 42, Nottingham Country subdivision resident whose son, Brett, is a Taylor football player. "It was funny to see those boys in hairnets, in aprons really busy making cookies."

Later, some players also traveled to Sealy to visit the residents and clients of Willow River Farm, a center program.

"They landscaped, mulched beds and played basketball with the residents," Burkett said. "They got to see the whole picture."

"Coach (Bill) Lane kind of put a challenge for us this year to be better citizens as well as



Dave Rossman photo

Football player Steven Chiara from Katy Taylor High School loads a rack with cookies at the Diet Gourmet on Aug. 12.

Griffin, 17, team captain and offensive lineman. "We're going to try to do that."

The boys don't get extra credit for what they do, said

ty on the team.

"It's just knowing that you helped someone else out," he said.

Griffin's mother, Pam Griffin,

nected the team with Project Gingersnap because a family friend lives at Willow River.

She and Janet Burkett joined their sons in the kitchen and at

Brett Burkett said he had never heard of Willow River.

"I think it's really fun to work out there. It was fun to meet