

## Intervale Green kids cook up a storm at "Iron Chef Kids" competition with celebrity chef Russell Jackson

In the Summer Harvest Festival contest, youngsters used ingredients grown on the roof of their Crotona Park East building.

By Ray Monell  
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*First-place winners (left to right) Isaiah Manderville, 10; Lance Manderville, 8, and Leah Highsmith, 6, won for their Chicken Caesar Wraps. With them is celebrity chef Russell Jackson.*

Meet the Bronx's newest crop of celebrity chefs.

Intervale Green resident Isaiah Manderville's mean chicken Caesar salad wraps landed him a first-place prize in a local "Iron Chef Kids" cook-off.

The 10-year-old created the winning dish using spices and vegetables grown on the roof of his Crotona Park East building.

"I'd like to be a chef when I grow up," Isaiah said, adding that eating is the best part of cooking.

The budding gourmand teamed up with his 8-year-old brother Lance and Leah Highsmith, 6, to chew up Friday's competition.

They also participated in a "Blind Taste Test," in which they had to identify the vegetables that were grown on the roof.

On hand to help judge was former "Iron Chef America" competitor Russell Jackson.



*The "Iron Chef Kids" winning dish was a Chicken Caesar Wrap.*

"This is an opportunity to change these kids' lives in a super positive way," said Jackson, who dished out healthy eating tips.

"This is something that's good for the heart," he said. "We get so much out of this personally."

The competition was part of the Summer Harvest Festival sponsored by the Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp.

The organization, founded in 1992, is an affordable housing developer that builds environmentally friendly homes. It operates two Bronx developments, and a third is in the works.

Intervale Green resident Simone Jackson was pleased to see the former Food Network star.

"It's a wonderful experience for the children, and also for the adults, because this is our home and where we live," the mother of three said.

"It's really good to see people in the flesh who can show you it's possible to eat healthier."