



# Winner

## BAKES ALL

After 20 years away from competitive cooking, Sandy Bradley made her triumphant return in 2020 as the first-ever winner of The Greatest Baker.

By Meagan Magnuson

**H**AVE YOU EVER DREAMED OF being featured in *Bake from Scratch* magazine and sharing your story with passionate bakers across the world? In 2020, The Greatest Baker created a competition that would provide a life-changing magazine feature and \$10,000 for one culinary creative! Thousands of bakers clamored for the opportunity of a lifetime while showcasing their delicious food photography in pursuit of earning enough votes to advance to the next round. Shortly after voting closed on December 10, 2020, Sandy Bradley from Arkansas was crowned the first official Greatest Baker champion!

When people think of Arkansas, they might envision the beautiful Hope Springs National Park or the lush Ozarks, but when we think of Arkansas, we will always think of Sandy Bradley and her delectable carrot cake! Sandy is a true natural in the kitchen, who



mentioned that her mother served as an immense source of inspiration for her growing up. "My mom was the best cook. She could master any recipe, and she just rocked the kitchen," Sandy says. "She could also improvise if she didn't have an ingredient."

Sandy began fostering her own cooking skills in 1965 after receiving an Easy-Bake Oven for Christmas at just 4 years old. For her, it was love at first knead from the moment that she created

her first batch of cornbread in her new oven. Her affection for cooking only grew in the following years, when she signed up for various cooking competitions throughout the '80s and '90s that she would go on to win while earning cash prizes and vacations for her and her husband.

Before The Greatest Baker competition, Sandy put competitive baking on hold for more than 20 years, as she chose to focus on her beloved family and blossoming career. However, due to travel restrictions and safety concerns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, much of her work plans were paused until further notice. This break from the daily routine afforded her the time to reconnect with one of her biggest passions.

"2020 was a mess for everyone, and I found refuge in baking," Sandy shares. "I just love to make people happy with a little something—a carrot cake, cornbread, you know, something! And that's why I started baking again in 2020 to just make people happy and help them forget about their problems for just a minute while they enjoy one of my creations."

Her recent rekindled fondness for creating in the kitchen, along with the support of her family, made applying to The Greatest Baker a no-brainer. Her daughter, Lauren, unbeknownst to Sandy at the time, sent her mother's voting link to everyone they knew in the hopes of spurring some votes, and it worked! Sandy was propelled to the Finals and consistently dominated the top

spot until she became the first official winner of The Greatest Baker.

When asked what she could share with the world, Sandy wanted to emphasize, "Winning

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is not individual—it's a group. I want everyone to know that I believe the other Finalists and the competitors were all incredible.

No Kid Hungry is the real winner, and I'm happy to be part of that. This Greatest Baker movement helped keep feeding kids during the pandemic."

For more information about upcoming competitions, visit [greatestbaker.com](https://greatestbaker.com).

*This feature is paid advertising for The Greatest Baker competition and was not produced by Bake from Scratch magazine or its editors.*



A portion of the proceeds from The Greatest Baker benefits No Kid Hungry, a national campaign to end childhood hunger in America. Since 2010, No Kid Hungry has worked with schools, local nonprofits, and elected leaders to help launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the hunger crisis that already existed in this country. That's why it's more important than ever to support causes like No Kid Hungry, which works hard to eliminate any barriers that stand in the way of a child having access to food. They support programs like school meals, food banks, and other community groups feeding kids and push for legislation to strengthen programs like SNAP that help feed more kids and families. Through a combination of emergency grants, strategic assistance, advocacy, and awareness, No Kid Hungry is equipping communities with the resources they need during this crisis and every day.

The Greatest Baker was proud to have the opportunity to help support No Kid Hungry in such a big way in 2020, and they were excited to contribute \$368,757.70 to their mission of helping to end childhood hunger. For more information on No Kid Hungry and how you can help support their mission, please visit [NoKidHungry.org](https://NoKidHungry.org) to learn more.