Nana's Turkey Stuffing

My husband's grandmother, "Nana," as she was known by all, had a turkey stuffing recipe that was handed down to her for four generations and our family made it every Thanksgiving. It was a staple and without it, Thanksgiving just wouldn't be the same.

The stuffing itself wasn't that special and everyone knew it. It was the process of making it that everyone looked forward to each year.

One person would be responsible for toasting a whole loaf of bread, someone else would cut the toast into small squares. Another would cut the onions and someone else would mix the stuffing once all the ingredients were in the bowl, which required some muscle, and lastly, someone would actually stuff the turkey.

Every year those duties fell on different people, as Nana saw fit to recruit them. It was like the Thanksgiving glue that held us all together. One year, Nana wasn't feeling well and told us we could just go without it and buy something from the grocery. Our family was not having that. On the morning of Thanksgiving that year, we pulled out the stained, tattered, and faded ink recipe card and went about doing what she had done for as long as we could remember. We even asked her questions that we knew the answers to while preparing it, just to pull her in and make her feel a part of it.

I would have included the recipe but trust me, it wasn't that special. Stick with your family's stuffing recipe. But maybe this year, start a new tradition by pulling other family members into the kitchen with you and create it or some other recipe together.

For us, it was not about the recipe, it was about keeping a family generations-old tradition alive. It was about coming together, talking, laughing, having fun while working on something that was important to us all. It was about remeniscing over past Thanksgving memories and making new ones each year.

Contributed by: Lisa Hannan