A mother and daughter from Kharkiv *started a catering business in Ottawa.*

Anastasiia Stepanenko, 19, and her mother, Nataliia, 41, came to Ottawa from Ukraine in 2023. In the summer of 2026 they started OH! Catering together, took their first clients, and cooked their first big day at UAFest 2026, feeding Ukrainians and the Canadians who came out to support Ukraine.

The Stepanenkos are from Kharkiv, in north-east Ukraine, close to the Russian border, and were living in Kyiv when the full-scale invasion began. Then they left Ukraine: a year in a rented house in Stuttgart, where Anastasiia finished high school, and in 2023 a new home in Ottawa.

In Ottawa the first kitchen job came through her mother. Nataliia took a management position at Rideau Gymnastics in Kanata, came up with themed camps for children and chose her daughter to coach the cooking camp. One summer was enough. At 17 Anastasiia registered her own children's cooking studio, Cookiddoo, and paid for it herself.

> *She told me I would be the coach of the cooking camp and after the first summer, I decided I loved it.*
> Anastasiia, to Edible Ottawa, May 2026

On Sunday 13 September 2026 OH! ran the food stand at UAFest 2026, the Ukrainian festival in Riverside Park, Carleton Place, near Ottawa. The people in the queue were Ukrainians and Canadians who had come out to support Ukraine, and the menu was the food of home: borscht, varenyky, the Ukrainian Plate, nalysnyky, medovik, kartoshka cake and kvas.



Anastasiia at the range, 9 September 2026. Photo: Nataliia Stepanenko.

FACT SHEET

Business	OH! Catering: catering for celebrations in Ottawa, at ohcatering.ca
Started	Summer 2026
The people	Anastasiia Stepanenko, 19, founder. Nataliia Stepanenko, 41, her mother, who runs OH! with her. Ages as of 2 November 2026.
From	Kharkiv, Ukraine. In Ottawa since 2023
First big day	The food stand at UAFest 2026, 13 September 2026, Riverside Park, Carleton Place
What they cook	Styled share tables and grazing tables for roughly 12 to 50 guests, and Ukrainian home cooking: varenyky, borscht, medovik
Kitchen	A rented commercial kitchen in Ottawa
Also	Anastasiia runs Cookiddoo Studio, a children's cooking studio in Kanata
Earlier coverage	Edible Ottawa, “Cooking with Confidence”, May 2026, and CTV’s Your Morning Ottawa, July 2026. Both are about Anastasiia and her studio

STORY ANGLES

Women in business. Two women, 19 and 41, building a food business from the first client up. Anastasiia registered her first company at 17.

Newcomers from Ukraine. A family from Kharkiv that left Ukraine after the full-scale invasion, arrived in Ottawa in 2023 and now feeds its new neighbours the food of the old home.

Mother and daughter. Nataliia gave her daughter her first job in a kitchen, at a children's camp in Kanata. Now they run a business side by side.

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