

## RECIPE

Hero Vegetable: Kale

## **Kale Minestrone**

## Ingredients:

4 cups kale, stems removed and sliced 6 cups water or chicken broth 1 cup ditalini pasta 2 large carrot, diced 2 stick celery, chopped 1 leek, cleaned and chopped 1 medium onion, diced 2 garlic cloves, minced 1 28-ounce tomatoes, chopped with juice 15 oz kidney beans, cooked 15 oz white beans, cooked 2 Tbs tomato paste 1 Tbs dried oregano 1 Tbs dried basil 2 bay leaves 2 Tbs oil salt and pepper to taste grated Parmesan for serving butcher's twine

## **Directions:**

Tie the fresh herbs with butcher's twine. Set aside. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, celery, dried herbs, and leek. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Cook until onion is translucent about 5 minutes then sweat the vegetables another ten minutes. Stir in the pasta, tomatoes, water or chicken broth, band bay leaves. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally for about 20 minutes.

Stir in the beans during the last 5 minutes of cooking. Turn off the heat. Stir in the kale. Add salt and pepper if needed. Serve with a sprinkle of parmesan cheese.