



Heart of Florida United Way

NEWS

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HEART OF FLORIDA UNITED WAY RAISES NEARLY \$170,000 FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS FACING DIRE NEED DURING 18TH ANNUAL CHEF'S GALA

ORLANDO, FL (June 2, 2010) – More than 20 top chefs from Central Florida's finest dining establishments joined together for the 18th Annual Chef's Gala, benefiting Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) on Saturday, May 15 at *Epcot*® World Showplace. The event featured extraordinary food, fine wines, live music and a dazzling silent auction. Nearly 1000 guests enjoyed the evening, which generated nearly \$170,000 to benefit local non-profit programs supported by United Way that provide food, shelter and many other critical services to people in dire need.

"Chef's Gala 2010 was a success by every measure," said Robert H. (Bob) Brown, President/CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. "During a year of continued economic downturn, businesses and individuals turned out in great numbers, not only because they believe in United Way, but also to help address our community's great and growing need. We sincerely appreciate everyone's support."

Now in its 18th year, Chef's Gala has grown to become Central Florida's premiere fine dining and wine pairing charity event. The following establishments participated in Chef's Gala 2010:

Artist Point, *Disney's Wilderness Lodge*
The Capital Grille
Cítricos, *Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa*
Coral Reef Restaurant, *Epcot*®
Eleven, Reunion Resort
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
Funky Monkey Wine Company
Harmony Golf Preserve
Kouzzina by Cat Cora®, *Disney's BoardWalk*
La Luce by Donna Scala, Hilton Orlando
Bonnet Creek
Mama Melrose's Ristorante Italiano, *Disney's Hollywood Studios*™
Primo by Melissa Kelly, Grande Lakes Orlando
Raglan Road Irish Pub and Restaurant
Sanaa, *Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge*

Todd English's bluezoo
Tony's Town Square Restaurant, *MAGIC KINGDOM*® Park
The Turf Club Bar and Grill, *Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa*
Tusker House Restaurant, *DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM*® Theme Park
Urban Flats® Flatbread and Wine Co.
The Wave...of American Flavors, *Disney's Contemporary Resort*
American Brownie Co.®
The Dessert Lady
Disney's Contemporary Resort Bakery
Epcot® Bakery
Coffee Roasters Alliance
Joffrey's Coffee & Tea Company

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WALT DISNEY WORLD® has served as host and sponsor of the event since its inception. Through Disney's outstanding support of Chef's Gala, more than one million dollars have been raised for programs that serve the most vulnerable Central Floridians. Other 2010 event sponsors include Harriett & Hy Lake, Bright House Networks, CNLBank, FIS, General Dynamics, OUC–The *Reliable* One, Publix Super Markets, Waldorf Astoria Orlando, Lawton Printers, Baker & Hostetler LLP, Bank of America, Fifth Third Bank, JCPenney, L3 Communications and the University of Central Florida. Media sponsors include WFTV 9 Family Connection, FirstMonday, Orange Appeal, Smooth 103.1 WLOQ, Telemundo Orlando and Winter Park Magazine.

Co-chairing the 2010 event were **Sandy Hostetter**, President of CNLBank; and **Peter Kacheris**, Managing Director of the Waldorf Astoria Orlando and Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek.

For more information about Chef's Gala and Heart of Florida United Way, please visit www.hfuw.org or call 407-835-0900.

About Heart of Florida United Way

Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year it raised and managed \$24.3 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income, health and safety. It also operates United Way 2-1-1 & Elder Helpline, Central Florida's community crisis and suicide hotline and information and referral helpline; a Volunteer Resource Center; a Gifts In Kind Center; a Stewardship program that works with agencies to provide emergency assistance; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers nearly \$2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more people annually than any other charity operating in the tri-county area and partners with local businesses, government, other charities and individuals to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for the people in need in our community. Visit www.hfuw.org for more information.

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