



# NEWS

Heart of Florida United Way

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Heart of Florida United Way's 23rd Annual Chef's Gala Raises Nearly \$300,000 for Central Floridians in Need**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (May 18, 2015)** – Heart of Florida United Way's 23rd annual Chef's Gala raised nearly \$300,000 to benefit local nonprofit programs that support education, income, health and basic needs for thousands of Central Floridians in need. More than 20 top chefs from Central Florida's finest dining establishments collaborated for the region's premier food and wine-pairing event on Saturday, May 16 at Epcot® World Showplace. Ninety-five cents of every dollar raised from the event benefits Central Floridians in need.

"Our 23rd annual Chef's Gala was a huge success – and we are pleased that, with the help of our partner agencies, we can continue to help more than 400,000 people in the tri-county region," said Robert H. (Bob) Brown, president and CEO of Heart of Florida United Way.

"Thanks to the dedication of our co-chairs, our host Walt Disney World Resort®, presenting sponsor Florida Technical College, the chefs and our generous sponsors and guests, we can provide critical services to our neighbors who have fallen on hard times."

Co-chairs for the 2015 event were former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Antonia Novello; John Pisan, CFP, regional managing director and senior vice president of Wells Fargo Wealth Management Group; and Jackie Bozzuto, shareholder, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed.

**PRESS KIT MATERIALS (logos, menu, past event photos):** [www.hfuw.org/Press\\_Kits.php](http://www.hfuw.org/Press_Kits.php).

For more information about Heart of Florida United Way, please visit [www.hfuw.org](http://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 \$26.6 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income, health and basic needs. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Gifts In Kind Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers more than \$2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 400,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. United Way partners with local businesses, government, other charities to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for people in need. Visit [www.HFUW.org](http://www.HFUW.org) for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.*

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