



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrity Chefs and Other Details Announced for Eleventh Annual Cookin' for Kids

“The Iron Chef of Fort Worth” Benefit Event to be Held March 2, 2008

FORT WORTH, TX – January 29, 2008 – The Eleventh Annual Cookin' for Kids, a benefit event often referred to as “The Iron Chef of Fort Worth,” will be held this year on Sunday, March 2 at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. The celebrity chef cook-off event benefits Fort Worth's Kids Who Care, a non-profit musical theatre organization dedicated to producing confident, caring and creative kids through musical theatre education, performance and leadership training. Karen Vermaire Fox is chairperson for this year's event, and Kris Davis Leitzman is the honorary chair.

During the evening, top area chefs and notable Texans will team up to support Kids Who Care in a race against the clock to create the evening's winning plate. Each team creates two plates – one for the judges and another that will be auctioned off to the evening's highest bidder.

The 2008 Cookin' for Kids chef lineup will include:

- Frederic Angevin, Four Seasons in Las Colinas
- Jon Bonnell, Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine in Fort Worth
- Deb Cantrell, Brownie Points Personal Chef Service in Fort Worth
- Terry Chandler, Fred's Texas in Fort Worth
- Dena Peterson, Café Modern in Fort Worth
- Denise Shavandy, Chef Denise Cooks in Fort Worth
- Michael Thomson, Michael's Restaurant & Ancho Chile Bar in Fort Worth
- Charles Youts, The Classic Café in Southlake

“Cookin' for Kids is the original celebrity chef cook-off in Fort Worth, and it's the single largest fundraiser for Kids Who Care each year, supporting theatre arts education and family entertainment in our community,” said Karen Vermaire Fox, chairperson for the Eleventh Annual Cookin' for Kids benefit. “This fun event is made possible by the generous and enthusiastic support of our celebrity chefs, sponsors, guests and volunteers.”

Each year during Cookin' for Kids, a top area chef is paired with a notable Texan to compete in the evening's cook-off. Notable Texans participating in this year's Cookin' for Kids include:

- Pam Minick, former Miss Rodeo America, host of “The American Rancher,” and member of the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame
- Wendy Davis, candidate for Texas State Senate
- Sonny Burgess, country singer and Texas Country Music Hall of Fame member
- Rebecca Miller, NBC5 meteorologist
- Joy Donovan, Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist
- Jody Ulich, President of the Arts Council
- Joseph Vincelli, jazz saxophonist
- Jamie Adams, Prudential Texas Properties

The evening will feature live entertainment by the Kids Who Care Resident Company and silent, big board and live auctions. Auction items include the celebrity chef cook-off plates, a ten-hour recording studio session (with Patriot Recordings) and professional music video package, an autographed guitar from Billy Bob’s, a single batch distiller’s barrel signed by the master distiller at Jack Daniels, a Kids Who Care Resident Company event performance and a Round & Round grow-with-you furniture set by Spirit International.

Sponsors for the event include The Happy Davis Foundation, Freese & Nichols, The Vineyard at Florence, Ben E. Keith, Jack Daniels, Reliant Signs and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

All proceeds from Cookin' for Kids benefit Kids Who Care and help provide scholarships, youth leadership training and other support that makes Kids Who Care arts education and performances available to children in the community.

The Eleventh Annual Cookin’ for Kids benefit event will take place on Sunday, March 2, 2008 at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, located in the heart of the Fort Worth Cultural District on the corner of Montgomery and Lancaster, at 1300 Gendy Street. The VIP party begins at 4:00 p.m., and doors open for the main event at 5:00 p.m. VIP party guests are \$100, and main event-only guests are \$50. All proceeds benefit Kids Who Care. A limited number of reserved sponsor tables are also available. For more information, please contact 817.737.5437 or cookin@kidswhocare.org.

About Kids Who Care

Kids Who Care is a non-profit international theatre company based in Fort Worth, Texas that seeks to produce confident, caring and creative kids through leadership training, musical theatre education and performance. The organization began with a pilot in the summer of 1987 under the direction of Deborah Jung, moved to The Scott Theatre in Fort Worth’s Cultural District in 1989 and has evolved into the non-profit Kids Who Care corporation it is today. Kids Who Care offers professional musical theatre classes, summer musical theatre camps, international cultural exchanges, a touring Resident Company, public performances and more. The core values of the organization include: excellence in artistic development, artistic integrity of kids, leadership roles for kids, financial and cultural diversity and ensemble production. For more information, please visit www.kidswhocare.org.

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