



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winning Chefs Announced for 2010 Cookin' for Kids Celebrity Chef Cook-Off

FORT WORTH, TX – March 15, 2010 – Kids Who Care, a non-profit international musical theatre company based in Fort Worth, announces the winners of the Thirteenth Annual Cookin' for Kids Celebrity Chef Cook-Off. The benefit event was held Sunday, March 7 at River Ranch in Fort Worth, where eleven professional chefs, each with a notable Texan as an assistant, competed in a race against the clock to create the evening's winning plates.

Each competing team was provided with a cooler full of ingredients, two Bunsen burners and 45 minutes to create two plates. One plate was delivered and divided among the evening's judges, and the other was auctioned off to the evening's highest bidders. Simultaneously, five amateur chef teams competed in the amateur chef category.

In the Professional Chef category, first place went to chef Christof Syre of Four Seasons, assisted by Joan Trew of Williams-Trew/Joan Trew Real Estate Services. Second place went to chef Sean Merchant of The Covey, assisted by Richard Dixon, publisher of the Fort Worth Business Press. Third place was awarded to chef Juan Rodriguez of Reata, assisted by Tonya Veasey, Open Channels Communication. In the Amateur Chef category, the winner was Mitch Conditt, DDS, assisted by Grant James.

"Cookin' for Kids just keeps growing before our eyes, and we are so grateful for the continued support and generosity of our community," said Deborah Jung, founder and executive director of Kids Who Care.

Cookin' for Kids is Fort Worth's original celebrity chef cook-off benefit. It's held the first Sunday in March each year and is the single largest fundraising event for Kids Who Care. All proceeds benefit Kids Who Care and help provide scholarships, youth leadership training and other support that makes Kids Who Care arts education and affordable family entertainment available in our community.

Serving on the 2010 judging panel were Crystal Willars, *Fort Worth Foodie*; Jill Davis, You Be the Judge auction winner; Laurie James, freelance foodie writer; Mike Micallef, Reata; Nancy Farrar, Farrar Public Relations; Bill McCoy, Bank of Texas; and Mark Lowry, Theater Jones.

As the chefs competed, guests enjoyed food and beverages provided by: Boomer Jacks, Central Market Fort Worth, Coors, The Covey, Cuisine for Healing, Four Seasons, G-Texas Catering,

Ginger Man, Healthy Solutions, Hoffbrau Steaks, Hui Chuan Sushi, Latte Da Dairy, Margarita Express, Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, Pour House, Ruffinos, Savor Personal Chef, Simply Fondue, Winslow's Wine Café and Z's Café.

About Kids Who Care

Founded in 1989, Kids Who Care is a non-profit international theatre company based in Fort Worth, Texas that seeks to produce confident and creative kids through leadership, musical theatre education and performance. Kids Who Care offers professional musical theatre classes, leadership training, summer musical theatre camps, international cultural exchanges, a touring Resident Company, public performances and more. The Kids Who Care Resident Company has performed Off-Broadway at the Lamb's Theatre, at both Disney's, at The Kennedy Center, at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, at 30,000 feet aboard an airplane for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and at many other locations across the U.S. and overseas. 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.

Contact:

Kelly Kirkendoll Shafer
Shafer Communications for Kids Who Care
817.236.6075
kelly@shafercommunications.com

Kids Who Care, a non-profit international musical theatre company based in Fort Worth, announces the winners of its Thirteenth Annual Cookin' for Kids Celebrity Chef Cook-Off, a benefit event that has also become known as "The Iron Chef of Fort Worth." Jon Bonnell of Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine was the Grand Winner; Robert Jones of RJ Catering won the award for Best Culinary Technique; Denise Shavandy of Central Market won the award for Most Creative and Joseph Vincelli, jazz saxophonist and co-originator of the first Cookin' for Kids, was the Grand Winner in the amateur chef category.

The benefit event was held Sunday, March 2 at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, where 12 professional chefs, each with a notable Texan as an assistant, competed in a race against the clock to create the evening's winning plates. Each pair was provided with a cooler full of surprise ingredients, two bunson burners and 45 minutes to create two plates. One plate was delivered and divided among the evening's four judges, and the other was auctioned off to the evening's highest bidders. Simultaneously, 3 amateur chef teams competed in the amateur chef category.

"We're grateful for the ongoing support of the area's talented, generous and fun-loving chefs," said Deborah Jung, founder and executive director of Kids Who Care. "This is an amazing, high-energy event our guests look forward to each year, and sincere appreciation goes out to our sponsors, notable Texans, judges, tasting stations and dedicated volunteers who made this event such a success."

Cookin' for Kids is Fort Worth's original celebrity chef cook-off benefit. It's held the first Sunday in March each year and is the single largest fundraising event for Kids Who Care. All proceeds benefit Kids Who Care and help provide scholarships, youth leadership training and other support that makes Kids Who Care arts education and affordable family entertainment available in our community.

Celebrity chef/notable Texan teams competing in the 2008 Cookin' for Kids cook-off included:

- Frederic Angevin of Four Seasons with Sue Parrish
- John David Barrett of Café Art with Larry Anfin of Coors
- Jon Bonnell of Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine with Wendy Davis, former city councilwoman
- Deb Cantrell of Brownie Points Personal Chef Service with Pam Minick of Billy Bob's
- Terry Chandler of Fred's Texas with Whitney Kane of the Texas Brahmas
- Mario Jasso of El Paseo & Tres Joses with Rebecca Miller, NBC 5 meteorologist
- Robert Jones of RJ Catering with Monette Brooks
- Franson Nwaeze of Chef Point Café with Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Dave Lieber and his son, Austin Lieber
- Jason Park of Sushi Q with Beth Zimmerman of the Harris Methodist Foundation
- Dena Peterson of Café Modern with country singer/songwriter Sonny Burgess
- Denise Shavandy of Central Market with Jody Ulich, president of the Fort Worth and Tarrant County Arts Council
- Charles Youts of The Classic Café with Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Joy Donovan

Amateur chefs competing this year were:

- Jim Ogden, assisted by Paul Jung
- Craig Strehl, assisted by Bennie Wallace
- Joseph Vincelli, assisted by Lisa R. Vincelli

Serving on the 2008 judging panel were Greg Kalina, manager of Del Frisco's Steak House; Sandy Bowersox, membership director of The Petroleum Club; Johnny Wayne of Country Legends 92.1 and Laurie Barker James, local freelance writer.

Sponsors for the event included The Happy Davis Foundation (presenting sponsor), The Ranch Radio Group (VIP party sponsor), Freese & Nichols, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Vineyard at Florence, Ben E. Keith, Reliant Signs, All About Recognitions, Aramark, Altre Media, Republic Title and Fetzer Vineyards. Private sponsors included Mr. and Mrs. Don Cowart, Mr. and Mrs. Early Davis, Mr. Eric Fox and Ms. Carrie DuVall, Ms. Carrie Harrington, Steve and Monica Kintigh, Rush and Mary Vann, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lansford, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parrish and Mrs. Roz Rosenthal.

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.

Media Contact:

Kelly Kirkendoll Shafer
Shafer Communications for Kids Who Care
817.236.6075
kelly@shafercommunications.com

High-res photos are available.