

## **CEL's Chefs' Night Raises More than \$615,000!**

### **Area Chefs Donate Signature Dishes to Benefit People with Developmental Disabilities!**

Riverwoods, Illinois, June 7 – More than 700 people made their way to the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> for the Center for Enriched Living's Chefs' Night! Local restaurants, wineries, breweries, bakeries, as well as, the Deerfield-Bannockburn Firefighters and CEL members served guests their signature dishes and cocktails.

Going strong in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, Chefs' Night provided attendees with an opportunity to sample some of the North Shore's favorite restaurants. The event and the accompanying live auction and car raffle for the 2017 Fiat Spider 124 Lusso grossed more than **\$615,000**. The proceeds from the event go towards CEL's innovative, person-centered programming that provides opportunities for greater independence, personal growth and social enrichment for more than 400 youth and adults with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities.

The evening consisted of tastings from the area's finest food and beverage establishments. Each restaurant donated their food for their event.

Bent Fork Bakery (Highwood)	KOVAL Distillery (Chicago)
Big Bowl (Lincolnshire)	Marigold Maison (Lincolnshire)
Buca di Beppo (Wheeling)	New England Seafood Company (Chicago)
Center for Enriched Living (Riverwoods)	Newport Coffee House (Bannockburn)
Chicago Culinary Kitchen (Palatine)	Nirvana Wine & Grillerie (Vernon Hills)
Claim Company (Northbrook)	O'Toole's of Libertyville
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant (Wheeling)	PF Changs (Northbrook)
Deerfield-Bannockburn Firehouse (Deerfield)	Revolution Brewing (Chicago)
Enzo & Lucia Restaurant (Long Grove)	Scorched Earth Brewing Co. (Algonquin)
FEW Spirits (Evanston)	Sunset Foods (Highland Park)
Froggy's French Café & Catering (Highwood)	Three Tarts Bakery and Café (Northfield)
Gourmet Frog Bakery (Highwood)	Tighthead Brewing Co. (Mundelein)
Green Basil Thai Restaurant (Vernon Hills)	Vice District Brewing (Chicago)
Half Day Brewing (Lincolnshire)	Wildfire Restaurant (Lincolnshire)
Highland Pop/Slim Kim Popcorn (Highland Park)	

Additionally, chefs from CEL's REACH Adult Day Program served Tortellini Caprese Skewers with ingredients and a recipe from Chef Yury at Barilla America, one of the evening's sponsors. Other top sponsors include: CDW, an anonymous family foundation, BlueStar, Dell/EMC, HPE, Intel, Lori & Gary Kash, MS Surface, Samsung Electronics America, Inc., VMWare, William Blair & Company, Winston Strawn LLP, Adobe, AIT Worldwide Logistics, Arrow Enterprise Computing Solutions, Autodesk, Baker & McKenzie LLP, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Joan & Bradley Cannon, Curran Group, Kim & Tim Cysewski, Discover, DLA Piper LLP, The Eckrote Family, Epson, Liz & Henry Feldman,

First Bank of Highland Park, Marcy & Harry Harczak, Hockfield & Associates, Inc., Ingram Micro, Kingston Technology, Lifeboat Distribution, McKenna Foundation, Medline Foundation, Promark, Jim & Patty Shanks, Mitchell & Valerie Slotnick Family, Tech Data Corporation, and Tech Data – Technology Solutions.

“Chefs’ Night is a great fundraiser and ‘friend’-raiser,” says Harriet Levy, CEL’s executive director. “What better way to connect with old and new friends than through food and conversation? More importantly, the money raised has a direct impact on the quality of life for hundreds of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” The proceeds of this event remove barriers of social isolation and ensure that CEL’s members are included in the community, achieve personal success and enjoy a good quality of life.

The evening’s program featured a powerful and moving speech by Lorraine Hendrickson, whose son Nick attends CEL’s Summer Camp and monthly teen programming. Here’s an excerpt from her speech.

*“... As I look ahead to his life after he graduates high school, I want to see him in a program where he is happy and engaged. In our state of Illinois, where funding for people with developmental disabilities ranks at the very bottom, “happy” and “engaged” are difficult to attain. CEL is different. At CEL, I can envision Nicky’s future and I see so many possibilities for him. Because of people like you that support the Center for Enriched Living, I know that Nicky – and all CEL members – have opportunities to be their best selves and live their best lives. To be happy and engaged with the world around him.”*

“Chefs’ Night is an opportunity to share our families’ stories and illustrate CEL’s impact on the lives of people who have so many capabilities,” said Harriet Levy, Executive Director. “I’m grateful for every donor, volunteer, restaurant, attendee and sponsor who helped make the event a success.”

To learn more about the Center for Enriched Living and how you can participate in programs or volunteer, log on to [www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org](http://www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org) or call us at 847.948.7001.

### ***About the Center for Enriched Living***

*The Center for Enriched Living exists to enhance and enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – from youth through adulthood. CEL’s programs provide social, recreational and employment opportunities for our members in our newly renovated Universally Designed building in Riverwoods. More information available at [www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org](http://www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org)*

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