

## **CEL's Chefs' Night Raises More than \$580,000** **Area Chefs Donate Signature Dishes to Benefit People with Developmental Disabilities**

Riverwoods, Illinois, May 16– More than 600 people gathered at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a tasting event of epic proportions! Local restaurants, wineries, breweries, bakeries and more were on hand serving their signature dishes and cocktails benefitting the Center for Enriched Living (CEL), a non-profit organization in Riverwoods that provides social, recreational and enrichment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Going strong in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, Chefs' Night provided attendees with an opportunity to sample some of the North Shore's favorite restaurants. The event as well as the accompanying live auction and car raffle for the 2016 Mazda MX-5 Miata GT grossed more than **\$580,000**. 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 nearly 450 youth and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The evening consisted of tastings from nearly 30 of the area's finest food and beverage establishments, who each donated their food for their event.

Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano (Deerfield)	Longitud315 (Highwood)
Big Bowl (Lincolnshire)	Lynfred Winery (Roselle)
BluFish (Vernon Hills)	Marigold Maison (Bannockburn)
Center for Enriched Living (Riverwoods)	Market House on the Square (Lake Forest)
Claim Company (Northbrook)	Newport Coffee House (Bannockburn)
Cooper's Hawk (Wheeling)	Nirvana Wine & Grillerie (Vernon Hills)
Deerfield-Bannockburn Firehouse (Deerfield)	O'Toole's of Libertyville
Disotto Italian Restaurant (Highwood)	P.F. Changs Northbrook
Enzo & Lucia Restaurant (Long Grove)	Something Sweet (Antioch)
Fine's (Libertyville)	Sunset Foods (Highland Park)
Froggy's French Café & Catering (Highwood)	Tastebudz Delivery · Pickup · Catering (Highland Park)
Gourmet Frog Bakery & Carryout (Highwood)	Three Tarts Bakery and Café (Northfield)
Half Day Brewing (Lincolnshire)	Tighthead Brewing Co. (Mundelein)
Highland Pop (Highland Park)	Vice District Brewing (Chicago)
KOVAL Distillery (Chicago)	

The program featured a powerful and moving speech by Coleen Janiszewski, whose son Jimmy attends the REACH Adult Day Program. Here's an excerpt from her speech. "... Each program is member-oriented, where the members choose what programs they want to participate in. CEL offers a nice variety of volunteering in the community which allows him to keep up with job skills, and also a nice variety of recreational events. The perfect match for what I wanted for Jim. It is my hope that other programs would look to CEL as a template for their program in the future. **I hope my son's story**

**confirms that you truly have made a positive impact in our children's lives."**

"Chefs' Night is an opportunity to showcase what we see on a daily basis – that people with developmental disabilities are no different than people without disabilities and deserve to be welcomed and included in every facet of the community. CEL members even had their own food booth, preparing a delicious Asian pasta & vegetable salad with food donated by Barilla," said Harriet Levy, Executive Director. "This year was an amazing event and I'm incredibly grateful for every donor, volunteer, restaurant, attendee and sponsor who helped make the event so successful."

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 educational 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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