



February 3, 2010

Mardi Gras aids homeless children

Community Recorder

On Feb. 16 the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association will host its 19th annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children.

Local restaurants, chefs and food/drink purveyors will come together to provide high quality food and drink, as well as outstanding entertainment, for a very worthy cause.

This year, the event's proceeds will benefit four shelters: Bethany House Services, Cincinnati; Brighton Center's Homeward Bound, Covington; Mercy Franciscan at St. John, Cincinnati; and Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, Covington.

The Fat Tuesday event takes place from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

Mardi Gras for Homeless Children was created by NKRA in 1992 in response to the death of three local homeless children in an abandoned garage fire, and a subsequent article that reported there were 7,000 homeless children in the Greater Cincinnati area. NKRA wanted to increase awareness and raise funds to address this issue.

In 2004, the Greater Cincinnati Restaurant Association became a cooperative partner as its board unanimously voted to support this event. Members of the two associations continue to revel in the opportunity to make a difference by participating in the original and only Mardi Gras for Homeless Children.

Originally, the goal was to raise enough money to feed homeless children at two area shelters for one year. That goal was surpassed. To date, the event has raised more than \$850,000.

While the annual event has had amazing successes, homelessness in Cincinnati remains an unsolved problem for the children caught in the crisis.

Participating restaurants include 10 West, 360 Restaurant, Arnie's On The Levee, BB Riverboats, Bean Haus, Behle Street Café, Bella Luna, Bistro 737, Buckhead Mountain Grill, Chalk Food + Wine, Greenup Café, Savor Catering and Events, Chas Seligman Distribution Co.;

Chez Nora, Claddagh Irish Pubs, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Cookies by Design, Embassy Suites RiverCenter, Four Roses Bourbon, Gangsters Dueling Piano Bar, Grandview Tavern and Grille, Greyhound Tavern, Heidelberg Distributing NKY, Hofbrauhaus Newport, Hoggy's Restaurant, Hooters, Kelly's Public House, Keystone Bar and Grill, Klosterman Bakery, Local 127, JeanRo Bistro, Louis Trauth Dairy, Maker's Mark, Mitchell's Fish Market;

Oriental Wok Restaurant, Patron Tequila, Pepsi Americas, Pompilio's Restaurant, Republic National Distributing Co., Servatii Pastry Shop, Shanghai Mama's, Slush Puppie, Southern Wine and Spirits, Stagnaro Distributing Co., The Madison Event Center, The Pub at Crestview Hills, The Summit Restaurant, Tilted Palm Beverages, Tousey House Tavern, View, Vito's Café, Wallingford Coffee and Willie's Sports Café.