

NapervilleSun

Fundraiser spotlights work of local chefs

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By DAVID SHAROS For Sun-Times Media

Imagine having the chance to sample some of Naperville's finest cuisine, enjoy a wide variety of wines from various vendors and maybe even win a raffle prize worth hundreds of dollars for a \$50 investment.

All of that and more happens April 24 when Naperville Cares will offer the seventh annual Cuisine for a Cause event, a major fundraiser that last year netted a record \$118,000. The city of Naperville already has donated \$20,000 from its Special Events and Cultural Amenities Fund. **The event is offered in partnership with My Chef Catering and is sponsored in part by Van Kampen Investments.**

Executive Director Janet Derrick said the not-for-profit group "was thrilled about last year's effort" and hopes that, despite the economy, the cuisine event will be just as profitable again.

Naperville CARES provides support for residents who are in financial distress. It does this by writing rent checks for people who can't afford it, providing needed transportation for people to get to work, and even paying for prescriptions if needed. They are funded by donations and a couple fundraisers a year, including Cuisine for a Cause.

"Naperville is an incredible town, and despite the hard times, people continue to reach out and help the community," Derrick said. "This event is all about Naperville restaurants and people coming out to help others in the community. We had 500 people attend last year, and we actually had room for 100 more."

Once again, a total of 25 restaurants throughout Naperville will be featuring some of their signature dishes. Derrick said there is an effort to keep the number consistent each year, but added that a few "newbies" have been added to the list.

"With all the restaurants we have here locally, we try and make sure we have a sampling of virtually every cuisine, and that the restaurants complement each other," Derrick said. "People always find there is a great variety, and it's a chance for the chefs to show what they can do."

In addition to taste portions of favorite restaurant dishes, Cuisine for a Cause will feature musical entertainment, an open bar, wine tastings as well as silent and live auctions. New this year will be a "Best of Live" auction event, where a total of 200 tickets, each priced at \$50, will go on sale before the actual live auction. One ticket holder will be chosen before the live auction begins to have first choice of any item.

Another new item this year will be a separate auction featuring Apple's new iPad.

A list of participating restaurants and wine vendors can be found at www.napervillecares.org/cuisinerestaurants.asp.

IF YOU GO

What: Cuisine for a Cause

When: 7 to 10:30 p.m. April 24

Where: Tellabs Global Headquarters, 1415 W. Diehl Road, Naperville

Cost: \$85 per ticket (\$60 tax deductible)

Info: Call Lissa Huelsmann at 630-305-0136 or Rosemary Holdredge at 630-369-0200 or visit

<https://napervillecares.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/CuisineforaCause2010/tabid/198740/Default.aspx> for online reservations