



Contact: Vanessa Mayfield, 917.526.1632 cell, Mayfield.Vanessa@gmail.com

Liz's Where Y'at Diner Named Celebration's Choice 2012

Children's Museum of St. Tammany Fundraiser Marks 5th Anniversary with Inaugural Culinary Competition, Aerialist, Robot and More

ST. TAMMANY—March 6, 2012—Liz's Where Y'at Diner was named Celebration's Choice 2012 at Sunday night's "Celebration of Innovation" fundraiser benefitting the Children's Museum of St. Tammany. The 5th annual Celebration event was held on March 4th at the Castine Center in Mandeville to raise money for the next phase of the Children's Museum project. Along with live music by KARMA and the Fontainebleau Jazz Ensemble One, live and silent auctions, a raffle, a Spinnovation prize wheel and more, the food is always a huge part of Celebration's success.

More than 40 area restaurants took time off from their busy kitchens to support the cause by taking part in Celebration's annual Culinary Showcase. Zoë's Bakery wowed guests with their fifth annual artistic dessert spectacular including elaborate cakes suspended in mid-air. Incredible liquid concoctions were served up by Champagne Beverage Co., Inc., Glazer's Companies of LA, Jerk's Island Grill and New Orleans Original Daiquiris.

New to Celebration this year, the Culinary Showcase featured a delicious twist—the inaugural Celebration's Choice honor. Event attendees were invited to cast a vote for their favorite dish throughout the evening with the recipient announced at the close of the event. Liz's Where Y'at Diner, located in Mandeville, emerged the winner with their Crabby Benedict—a delicately poached egg over a grilled crabcake and blackened tomato with a Cajun hollandaise sauce.

"Our restaurants give so much in terms of time and product to benefit the Children's Museum and their contribution to the success of the event every year is immeasurable. We were thrilled to find a small way to further recognize their efforts by establishing the Celebration's Choice accolade," remarked Tony LeMon, restaurant chair and Celebration co-chair. "Our chefs and restaurateurs really got into the spirit of creating some innovative menu items to share with the community and we're delighted that Liz's Crabby Benedict took home the top honor. This was their first year participating in Celebration and, clearly, the patrons were happy they were here!"

For the full list of restaurants that participated in this year's Culinary Showcase and more information about Celebration's Choice 2012, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/7dve3wu>.

In addition to Celebration's Choice, patrons were treated to a number of other surprises at Sunday night's 5th anniversary event. Capturing the spirit of the "innovation" theme, Mary Queen of Peace's Robotics Club had a representative on hand with 'MquiP'—a student-made robot who amused

guests as they perused the Zoë's dessert tables. Cakes weren't the only exquisite things suspended in mid-air—Celebration-goers were also invited to cast their gaze upward as an aerialist performed.

Over the last four years, the Celebration event has raised more than \$450,000 for the new museum. Monies raised by this year's Celebration will be instrumental in contracting the Museum's exhibit designer and capital campaign partner as well as creating the Children's Museum of St. Tammany's website where supporters can follow the museum's progress.

Museum progress is steadfast. St. Tammany Parish Government has dedicated the land at Koop Drive, which has been cleared and properly surveyed. The organization is in the final stage of hiring an exhibit design firm who will begin the next design phase and schematic planning for the Museum. The combined efforts of St. Tammany Parish Government, the Junior League of Greater Covington, the Children's Museum Capital Campaign and Celebration have secured over \$3 million in commitments to the development of this project through in-kind and cash donations.

The Children's Museum of St. Tammany is the signature project of the Junior League of Greater Covington in partnership with St. Tammany Parish. For more information about the Children's Museum of St. Tammany, please visit www.jlgc.net.

About The Children's Museum of St. Tammany

Upon completion, the Children's Museum of St. Tammany will provide a learning environment that will serve the needs and interests of local and regional children, families and schools by providing exhibits and programs that stimulate curiosity and imagination, in addition to nurturing a desire for life-long learning.

About the Junior League of Greater Covington

The Junior League of Greater Covington is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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