

Culinary Celebration
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The time has come once again to raise money for those who are most important to parents...their kids. The money doesn't go to the kids, but rather to the people who have a large hand changing their lives through education...their teachers. The money needed to impact lives is raised by Culinary Celebration, Carroll Education Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year. The annual event is Oct. 4 at the Hyatt Regency DFW.

Culinary Celebration is an evening of food, friends and fundraising.

The event offers food samplings from 23 area restaurants. Some of the returning favorites come from Brio, Bucca de Beppo, JR's Steakhouse and others, and there are even new tastings that will be offered this year from Wild Wood American Grill – a restaurant that has yet to open its doors to the public.

There is sure to be a food that suits every palate.

Also featured at the event is the wide array of both silent and live auction items up for bid. New to this year's auctions is the introduction of digital screens.

"It will allow us to keep the items open longer and you can bid on an item from anywhere in the boardroom," said CEF Executive Director Kacy Hankins.

There will be numerous screens placed on both the silent auction tables and at various tables throughout the ballroom where people will be able to check the bid amount on an item and decide whether or not to raise the bid. The auction items will be categorized by topic, and guests will easily be able to keep track of the items that interest them.

New to this year's auction is "Mayor for a day" for the city of Southlake. As part of Mayor for a Day duties, the winner of this auction item will have the opportunity to flip the switch to light up Town Square on Nov. 21.

There will also be an auction item to be either a firefighter or police officer for the day that will come complete with a uniform to keep.

"It's a really neat way to get people involved with the city," Hankins said.

Park Place Lexus, this year's title sponsor, will offer "Taste of Lexus," which is the chance for the winner to drive a new Lexus for every month for one year.

There are more than 300 silent and live auction items that will be offered at this year's event.

"It's a tough economy so we have been very blessed by our sponsors," Hankins said. "They (the sponsors) have come out and gone above and beyond."

The evening, just as in the past, will have a live band for entertainment and a "wine pull," which gives guests who pay \$30 for a bottle of wine the chance to win a bottle worth \$30 or as much as \$250.

CEF has no fundraising goals set for this year but they hope to raise as much as possible.

“No matter what is going on with the economy our students still need us and our teachers still need us,” Hankins said.

Last year’s event raised \$285,000, which was used for 21 teacher grants and 10 scholarships of \$1,500 each.

Tickets for this year’s event can be purchased at the district administration building, at the CEF Web site and the night of the event at the door. The tickets are \$100 each or \$150 a couple.