

Community gave generously at Cuisine for a Cause

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From Staff Reports

The sixth annual Cuisine for a Cause event, held April 25, raised more than \$118,000 to benefit needy families in Naperville, according to a release issued Tuesday by Naperville CARES (Community Acting in Response to Economic Stress).

The event showcased the signature dishes from more than 30 Naperville restaurants and five wine and beer merchants. All the proceeds from Cuisine for a Cause go to Naperville CARES, a volunteer-driven organization that aids Naperville families experiencing economic crisis. This event, CARES' largest fundraiser, was especially important because CARES has seen a 20 percent rise in requests to date this year, the release said.

Naperville CARES Executive Director Janet Derrick said the 2009 Cuisine for a Cause raised \$118,782, an increase of more than \$20,000 from last year's total of \$96,114.

"It is especially nice to see the Naperville community generously reaching out this year, and recognizing that although this year has been tough for everyone, it has been even tougher for those who started out with less," Derrick said in the release. "In this tough economic climate our requests have risen, and thanks to the funds raised at Cuisine we will be able to assist more Naperville families in need. Because of the generosity of Tellabs, our sponsors, the SECA grant from the city of Naperville and the donations of food and wine by Naperville restaurants and wine vendors, 100 percent of our ticket and auction sales will go directly to helping Naperville CARES clients."

Karen Garlough, owner of My Chef Catering, CARES board member and chairperson of Cuisine for a Cause, said she is also happy with the success of the event.

"Cuisine is a fabulous event. It is a perfect opportunity for the people and restaurants of Naperville to come out and have a good time, and support their community. I look forward to it every year," Garlough said.

Next year's Cuisine for a Cause will be held April 24, according to Naperville CARES.

Naperville CARES is a volunteer-driven organization providing assistance to Naperville families experiencing economic crisis. Naperville CARES' mission is to provide resources to people within the Naperville community who need assistance to avoid homelessness and attain self-sufficiency.