

around town: EVENT

WINNING Bids for Healthy Kids

Chefs Auction of the Low Country returns

There are few causes more noble than making life better for a child. And, if in the pursuit of this noble goal, the opportunity should arise to enjoy world-class cuisine, so be it. This effective philosophy has driven the *Chefs Auction of the Low Country Gourmet Gala* for the last five years, as legendary area chefs dish out their finest creations to benefit the March of Dimes.

"Last year, we raised over \$60 thousand," said Rebecca Smith of the March of Dimes. "The event has really taken off."

This year's Chefs Auction will take place on May 2nd at the Crowne Plaza Resort. A cocktail reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. will set the stage for a night of food, fundraising, and the foot-tapping music of The Headliners. The culinary buffet follows, featuring signature dishes from the area's finest chefs served tapas style.

"The chefs really go all out for it," enthused Smith.

And this year's roster of gourmets reads like a culinary dream team. Represented at the event will be eateries such as the Sage Room, the Beaufort Inn, Mulberry Street, Windows on the Waterway, Oldfield, the Boathouse II, Antonio's, C.Q.'s, The Old Fort Pub, Crowne Plaza,

Berkeley Hall, Charley's Crab, Michael Anthony's, and the King's Wharf.

And their involvement doesn't end there. The live auction afterwards gives attendees the opportunity to take these chefs home. In addition to vacation getaway packages and various luxury items, the chefs will be up on the auction block, with the winning bidder receiving a deluxe in-home dinner for themselves and guests from the gourmet they choose. Proceeds from the event go to the March of Dimes to help fund their mission to improve the health of babies. Through research, community services, education and advocacy, the March of Dimes fights to prevent birth defects and infant mortality.

Tickets for the event, \$100 per person, or \$150 to \$500 per patron, may be reserved by calling the March of Dimes office at 341-9005.

"Our goal this year," said Smith, "is to raise as close to \$100,000 as we possibly can."

The chefs auction's combination of fine dining, great entertainment, and unforgettable prizes should make that child's play. — Barry Kaufman

