

CHOM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2009

Contact: Cydney Cameron
713-220-9737
ccameron@chomhouston.org

LOOK WHO'S COOKING AT THE BEACON

Chef Hugo Ortega Donates His Time And Talent To Raise Money For The Homeless Of Houston



Chef Hugo Ortega, of Hugo's and Backstreet Cafe, will host *Fiestas Patrias, Viva Mexico*, September 2 at The Beacon.

Houston, TX – Chef Hugo Ortega, of Hugo's and Backstreet Café, is sponsoring a cooking demonstration and dinner, with a paired wine selection served with each course, Wednesday evening, September 2 at The Beacon, located in downtown Houston. The Beacon is a program of Cathedral Health & Outreach Ministries (CHOM), which provides hot meals, clothing, laundry services, private shower and lavatory facilities, and case management to the homeless of Houston. All proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit the programs of CHOM, which include The Beacon, Brigid's Hope, Cathedral Justice Project, and Cathedral Clinic.

Chef Ortega's cooking demonstration and dinner, *Fiestas Patrias, Viva Mexico*, will feature a Mexican-themed meal that will include Chiles en Nogada, Taquitos de Pollo, and Fresh Coconut Tart, in honor of Mexico's Independence Day. Chiles en Nogada is the national dish of Mexico. It commemorates the Mexican flag in the colors of the dish – green chiles, white walnut sauce and red pomegranate seeds.

“We are incredibly grateful to have the support of Chef Hugo Ortega,” says Tracy Burnett, LCSW, Executive Director for CHOM. “CHOM relies on the generosity of individuals in the community to assist us as we provide essential services to the homeless of Houston. It is through their donation of time, talent, and treasure that we are able to serve over 10,000 unduplicated individuals annually who are homeless, transitionally homeless, or at-risk for becoming homeless. To have Chef Ortega

sponsor a cooking demonstration and dinner in The Beacon, where we have provided over 135,000 meals, is a great honor.”

Chef Ortega was named “Chef of the Year” at the prestigious Houston Culinary Awards, and Hugo's restaurant was named “Restaurant of the Year” in 2003 by both the *Houston Press* and *My Table* magazines. Since its opening, Hugo's has been lauded by local, regional, and national media, including being named a “Top Table” by *Bon Appetit*, and “Where to Eat Now in 30 American Cities” and one of the “Restaurants We Love” by *Gourmet*. In addition, Chef Ortega's poignant life story has been featured in print and electronic media, and is a source of inspiration for many. Backstreet Café has also won numerous accolades and awards, including consecutive *Wine Spectator* Awards of Excellence. Backstreet Café is located at 1103 South Shepherd Drive, and Hugo's is located at 1600 Westheimer.

The cooking demonstration and dinner will be at The Beacon, located at 1212 Prairie Street. Tickets are \$100 each (there are a limited number of tickets per event). An underwriter table for 8 can also be purchased for \$2,000. *Fiestas Patrias, Viva Mexico*, is the second cooking demonstration and dinner in a three-part series called *Look Who's Cooking At The Beacon*. To purchase tickets call 713-532-6907 or visit www.chomhouston.org.

CHOM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing social and health services to poor and homeless men, women, children, and youth living in the Houston area. The mission of CHOM is to respect the human dignity of the poor and improve their lives. CHOM is serving the poor and homeless through four distinct programs: The Beacon, a day center providing essential services (food, clothing, laundry services, and shower facilities) and case management to help individuals address the root causes of their homelessness, and also includes the Homeless Youth Street Outreach Project, an off-site component that provides case management and licensed mental health counseling services to homeless youth; Brigid's Hope, a transitional residence serving homeless women who have left the Texas prison and jail system; Cathedral Justice Project, a legal aid program providing pro-bono legal services to the homeless; and Cathedral Clinic, a health clinic providing medical and mental health services to poor and homeless men, women, children, and youth.

1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 • Phone: 713-220-9737 • Fax: 713-224-2412 • www.chomhouston.org