

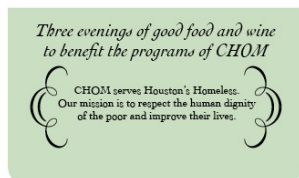
# CHOM

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## LOOK WHO'S COOKING AT THE BEACON

*Chefs Randy Evans, Hugo Ortega, Claire Smith, and David Luna Donate Their Culinary Services To Raise Money For The Homeless of Houston*



Houston, TX – Four Houston chefs will be sponsoring demonstration cooking classes and dinners throughout this year, which will take place downtown at The Beacon. The Beacon is a program of Cathedral Health & Outreach Ministries (CHOM), which provides hot meals, clothing, laundry services, showers, lavatory facilities, and case management to the homeless of Houston. Chef Randy Evans, of soon-to-be opening Haven, will be sponsoring *Mother's Day Brunch*, a cooking demonstration and dinner, on May 6, 2009. Chef Hugo Ortega, of Hugo's and Backstreet Café, will be sponsoring *Fiestas Patrias, Viva Mexico*, a cooking demonstration and dinner, on September 2, 2009. And Chefs Claire Smith and David Luna, of Shade, will be sponsoring *Party Bites For The Holidays*, a cooking demonstration and dinner, on November 4, 2009. All proceeds of this fundraiser series will benefit the programs of CHOM, which include The Beacon, the Homeless Youth Street Outreach Project, Brigid's Hope, Cathedral Justice Project, and Cathedral Clinic.

CHOM's special relationship with the Chefs developed as a result of a fundraising event that took place at The Beacon last October. CHOM opened The Beacon's doors to Brennan's so the restaurant could hold a benefit to raise money for the James and Katharine Koonce Fund. James Koonce and his daughter, Katharine, were severely burned in a Hurricane Ike fire that destroyed the Houston landmark. Guests enjoyed a food tasting with dishes from Houston's premiere chefs and restaurants, including Hugo Ortega of Hugo's; David Luna of Shade; Ojan Bagher of 360 Restaurant; Jeff Boudreaux of Brasserie Max & Julie LLC; Bryan Caswell of Reef; James Cole of Flemings; Mark Cox of Mark's American Cuisine; Mark Holley of Pesce; Jonathan Jones of Beavers; Monica Pope of T'afia; and Chris Shepherd of Catalan, among others.

"We are really thrilled to have these extraordinary chefs donating their talents for our cause," said Tracy L. Burnett, LCSW, Executive Director for CHOM. "A key service CHOM provides to the homeless is hot meals. We have a large commercial kitchen where we prepare all the meals – since we opened our doors at The Beacon in January 2007, we have provided over 135,000 meals! So it's wonderful and quite fitting that these amazing chefs are coming to The Beacon and preparing delicious meals in our kitchen so we can raise funds to continue this vital work we are doing in the community."

The demonstration cooking classes and dinners will be at The Beacon, located at 1212 Prairie Street. Tickets for a single class are \$100 (there are a limited number of tickets per event). An underwriter table for 8 can also be purchased for each event for \$2,000. Each evening will include a demonstration cooking class and dinner with a paired wine selection served with each course. To purchase tickets call 713-532-6907 or visit [www.chomhouston.org](http://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.*