

CHOM

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BRENNAN'S CHEF COOKS PRALINES TO RAISE MONEY FOR HOMELESS

Chef Randy Evans Helps Make Good Eats For A Good Cause

Houston, TX – Cathedral Health & Outreach Ministries (CHOM) has been fortunate to team up with Brennan's Executive Chef, Randy Evans, to cook up batches of the restaurant's famous praline recipe to sell to the Houston community this holiday season. Many of us have ended a meal at Brennan's by taking large handfuls of those famous pralines and stuffing them in our pockets or purses. These batches of pralines will have a special purpose – they will be sold to raise money for CHOM's programs that serve the homeless of Houston. The pralines will be made at CHOM's day center, The Beacon, which has a large commercial kitchen that it uses to cook the hot meals it serves to the homeless. Besides meals, The Beacon is also providing clothing, laundry services, private shower and lavatory facilities, and case management.



A volunteer helps cook pralines at The Beacon. These pralines will be sold to raise money to help the homeless.

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CHOM's special relationship with Chef Evans developed as a result of a fundraising event that took place at The Beacon last month. 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 Bryan Caswell of Reef; Mark Cox of Mark's; Mark Holley of Pesce; Jonathan Jones of Beavers; David Luna of Shade; Hugo Ortega of Hugo's; Wes Morton of 17



A chef serves up some delicious bites at a food tasting that took place in The Beacon in October. Proceeds benefited James and Katharine Koonce.

@ the Alden; and Monica Pope of T'afia; among others.

"We truly appreciate Randy volunteering his culinary gift and his time to cook up Brennan's delicious pralines," said Tracy L. Burnett, LCSW, Executive Director for CHOM. "CHOM relies on support like this from the community to help us raise the funding we need so we can serve the homeless in our community."

In addition to the praline fundraiser, some of the restaurants that participated in the October benefit will be hosting a special Cooking Class Dinner Series at The Beacon facility to benefit CHOM. In 2009, CHOM will be launching a series of special dinner events that will include a cooking class and dinner to be prepared by area chefs, and will be open to the public. Tickets will be available for sale and one hundred percent of the proceeds of this special dinner series will benefit CHOM and its programs, including The Beacon, Brigid's Hope, Cathedral Justice Project, and Cathedral Clinic.

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.