



CONTACT: Joanne Stanway
StanwayPR
978-250-7277
978-273-1473
Joanne@StanwayPR.com

Carolyn Oliveri
CHAF
781-789-7380
ceoceo@aol.com
www.CHAFund.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fundraiser for Cambridge Homeless to Feature Dessert, Dancing & Wine

*Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund Hosts
"Home Sweet Home," a Dessert Tasting to Open Doors for the Homeless, on November 14th*

CAMBRIDGE, MA, September 1, 2008 – "Home Sweet Home" will take on a new meaning on **Friday November 14th** when area dessert chefs compete for the new, and already coveted, "Yummy Awards" for best desserts to benefit Cambridge homeless residents or those in danger of becoming homeless. This new twist on the annual fundraising event hosted by the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund ("CHAF") will feature a dessert tasting with more than 20 area restaurants, bakeries and ice cream vendors; music and dancing; and a silent auction. VIP PassPORTS, which will include dessert wine and port tastings, will also be available for purchase. The event will take place at the **Hyatt Regency in Cambridge at 575 Memorial Drive from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.**

This year, CHAF, led by Cambridge Realtors and other concerned businesses and citizens, 'puts the icing on the cake' by inviting local chefs to show off their best dessert creations and compete for top honors, **voted on by event guests..** Honorary Celebrity Chefs include **Judy Rosenberg of Rosie's Bakery & Dessert Shop**, inventor of the 'Chocolate Orgasm', a frequently honored Boston area baker who is a member of the 'Best of Boston' Hall of Fame; **Chef Jed Hackney** of the renowned and innovative **Harvest Restaurant in Cambridge**; and **Chef Robert Daugherty** of the event's host, the **Hyatt Regency Cambridge**. In addition to the Celebrity Chefs, participating establishments to date include **Burdick's Chocolate, Harvest Restaurant, the Temple Bar, Au Bon Pain, Rosie's Bakery, Tavern in the Square, Toscannini's Ice**

Cream, Kick Ass Cupcakes, Petsi's Pies, the Cambridge Culinary School, Carberry's Bakery, Formaggio's Kitchen, the Middle East Restaurant, Taza Chocolates, Christina's Ice-cream, Gran Gusto and many more. Tasters looking for even more can purchase a PassPORT to a VIP room, which will include appetizers and an exclusive port and dessert wine tasting.

In addition to tasting some of the area's greatest desserts, guests will be able to listen and dance to ***Toussaint and the China Band*** (www.myspace.com/toussaintandthechinaband). Known for their unique blend of funk, reggae and soul, the band is a popular fixture in Harvard Square and have toured in Honduras, the Bahamas, Cuba, and Puerto Rico opening for headliners Wyclef Jean, John Legend, Barrington Levy, and John Brown's Body. There will also be a special raffle and silent auction to help raise additional funds.

This year's CHAF event marks the tenth year in which CHAF has staged a celebration to raise money to end homelessness. In past years, CHAF hosted Jazz concerts featuring notable national and local performers. Last year's event raised more than \$180,000 to provide start-up rental fees to about 200 families and individuals. Since its founding in 1999, CHAF has raised over \$1.2 million dollars to help end homelessness by providing one time grants to help people before they become chronically homeless, helping over 1,300 families and individuals find, or stay in, their homes.

CHAF is a public/private partnership of the Cambridge Community of Realtors, HomeStart and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center for the Homeless. which was founded to help people obtain or maintain a place to live despite rising home rental costs. CHAF has grown over ten years into a citywide coalition including the Cambridge banking community, Harvard University, city officials, individuals and other businesses committed to opening doors for people facing homelessness.

CHAF Board Chair David Pap commented on this year's event: "We are hosting 'Home Sweet Home, a Dessert Tasting to Open Doors for the Homeless' because the generosity of participants literally opens doors where people can live. We feel an evening of dessert, dancing and wine is a more personal and interactive experience for supporters of this cause and expect we will meet or surpass our fundraising goals as a result."

Tickets for the President's Ballroom Pass with dessert and dancing event are \$50 and tickets for the VIP Room with dessert/port wine tasting and appetizers added to the President's Pass are **\$75**,

and may be purchased on line from CHAF's website, www.CHAFund.org Event sponsors include Cambridge Savings Bank, Coldwell Banker, Citizens Bank, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Harvard University, Cambridge Trust Company. Hyatt Regency Cambridge, S&H Construction, CambridgeSide Galleria and Hammond Real Estate.

The *Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF)* is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness in our community. *CHAF* raises funds to assist the homeless and near homeless with initial apartment rental costs such as first month's rent, last month's rent or security deposit. The average amount needed to keep one family from becoming homeless is \$670, in contrast to the state's \$37,000 cost to house a homeless family in the state shelter system. Since its inception in 1999, CHAF has raised over \$1,200,000 – enough to open doors to more than 1,300 households. As CHAF's Chairman, David Pap, has noted, 'Preventing homelessness is far less expensive, and far more effective, than paying to house a family once they become homeless. Prevention also helps at risk families to avoid the trauma of trying to raise children in a shelter. Put simply : CHAF's program works ! «

For more information, please visit www.CHAFund.org.

###