



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Williams-Myers, CFRE
Development Director
Office: 863-683-6504

Fifth Annual Top Chef of Polk County Event Held to Benefit Achievement Academy

LAKELAND, FL (February 26, 2019) - Achievement Academy held its fifth annual Top Chef of Polk County event on Monday, February 25, 2019 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland. More than 250 guests enjoyed signature dishes (tapas style) prepared by 11 local chefs. The net amount raised at this signature event was \$148,000.

Guests voted on their favorite chef and Chef Chris Worley from Terrie Lobb Catering Inc. was awarded the title of “Top Chef of Polk County 2019.” Guests also voted on their favorite dining station to award “Top Table Décor” to Tim Williams from Spectra Food Services at the RP Funding Center.

In addition, the participating chefs voted on their favorite dish to award the “2019 Chefs’ Choice Award.” This vote resulted in a tie between Chef Jose Vicente from Brasa Latina, Chef Chris Worley from Terrie Lobb Catering and Chef William Ball from Cob & Pen. Chef Chris Worley from Terrie Lobb Catering raised the most funds for Achievement Academy through his donated auction item/s and online voting totaling \$3,401 and earned the “Top Philanthropic Chef” award. All of the participating chefs raised a combined total of \$13,393 for Achievement Academy.

Publix Super Markets Charities was our Exclusive Presenting Sponsor. Our Master Chef Sponsors were Artistic General Contracting, Bartow Ford and Horne Construction. Executive

Chef Sponsors were Harper Family Charitable Foundation, Inc., Hillcrest Partners, LLP., and Pallet Recycle. Our Sous Chef Sponsors were Alternative Gas Construction, Bank of Central Florida, Cannon Automotive Group, Embrace Home Loans, Guyann Family Produce, Interstate Batteries, Janice & Steve Jones, Keller Williams Realty Lakeland, Lanier Upshaw, MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, Senator Kelli Stargel and Smart Title. Our Sauté Chef sponsors were Alexander & Chandra Frederick, All Pro Used Auto Parts, AT&T Florida, Crowe LLP, Express Employment Professionals, Farm Credit of Central Florida, GEICO, Hughes Supply, John & Deborah Weber, Lakeland Electric, Lakeland Surgical & Diagnostic Center, LLP., Lock Insurance, Luke Markham and the law firm of Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns LLP., Mulling Insurance Agency, Murray Equipment Sales, Inc., Polk State College Foundation, Regal Automotive, Steve and Sandy Earley, Summit, Saddle Creek Logistics Services and Two Men & a Truck. Our In-kind sponsors were Central Food Equipment, Emily Plank Photography, Sunshine Growers, Dixie Signs, emcee Roger Todd with 97.5 WPCV and auctioneer Donald Kirkland with Higgenbotham Auctioneers International.

*The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.*