

Center's gala to be a showcase of generosity

The Acadiana Outreach Center is on a mission, one it will spotlight at its upcoming event and continue throughout the year.

For the Outreach Center, the gala Palates and Pâté event Nov. 14 is the means to help its clients rebuild their lives from poverty, homelessness and substance abuse.

With this mission in mind, the theme of this year's Palates and Pâté presented by IberiaBank is, "Together we can restore many more shattered lives."

A found-art concept symbolizing this rebuilding will be used throughout the event, said Linda Turner, co-chairperson for Palates and Pâté.

The Outreach Center is not just feeding or housing people. It helps people get back on their feet and regain their lives with dignity, Turner said.

Palates and Pâté funds the center's efforts, and hopefully

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Palates and Pâté will be Nov. 14 at the Cajundome Convention Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and a live auction begins at 8:30 p.m. To participate, call 237-7618. For more information, visit www.theoutreachctr.org.

keeps the need in people's minds throughout the year, too, she said.

Last year, about 1,000 people attended Palates and Pâté. This year, organizers are planning for that many and hoping for more.

"Sponsors come back year and year and support other efforts throughout the year," Turner said.

Without this generosity — from the chefs and artists to the sponsors and donors — this event couldn't happen, she said.

Twenty artist-chef pairs will offer a eyeful of entertainment while participants enjoy a savory sampling of cuisine. Artwork, which will be auctioned later in the evening, will be displayed about each serving area.

All participating chefs — each preparing 650 servings of food — have given their time, and art and travel packages to be auctioned also were donated.

"They believe in it enough to give their time, talent and money," Turner said.

Immediately following the auction, Marcia Ball will give a special concert.

Another surprise of the night will be the honoree of the



Submitted photo

Bojangles chef Vivavong Prasith stands with event co-chair Linda Turner and Bojangles owner Gordon Doerle.

coveted showplate award. Each chef prepares a showplate that ties into the theme of the artist's work they are paired with. A panel of judges will select a winning chef of the evening.

Palates and Pâté will be a night of food, fun and finery, but it's all about creating an awareness that continue throughout

the year because helping people rebuild their lives is a long-term commitment.

"It's more than one event, we're trying to continue the story," Turner said.

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