

Outreach Center raises funds with Palates & Pâté

The Outreach Center's annual Palates & Pâté fundraiser was once again a sell-out event with more funds raised than ever before - all designated to directly help people rebuild their lives from poverty, homelessness and substance abuse.

The event's tremendous success is credited to the overwhelming support and enthusiasm of the sponsors, volunteers, artists and chefs, as well as the Outreach Center shelter residents, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in preparation.

The Nov. 14 gala featured donated art from both regional and national artists paired with 19 chefs who drew inspiration from the artwork to create edible masterpieces.

"We're so appreciative to everyone - sponsors, artists, and chefs - who joined us in partnering with such a progressive organization empowering individuals toward self-sufficiency," said IberiaBank's Pete Yuan.

"The mosaic theme and found-art displayed throughout the event is a metaphor for lives once discarded finding new beauty and purpose. Palates & Pâté is more than just a fun evening," he said. "It is one of the most important ways our community can come together to help restore shattered lives."

The funds raised help the Outreach Center accomplish its mission of giving people back their dignity.

This year, Palates & Pâté grossed \$640,000 - one-third of the costs needed to help more than 4,000 men, women and children throughout the next year.

In 2008, the Outreach Center plans to provide more than 200,000 services, including:

- Case management working hand-in-hand with families to help them obtain housing, employment, transportation, childcare and health care.
- Empowerment and enrichment through substance-abuse recovery counseling, mental-health counseling and life-skills training to remove barriers to self-sufficiency.
- Transitional shelter in five homes, free food and clothing to thousands.

This year's Palates & Pâté featured special guest Marcia Ball and a live auction featuring fine art, custom-designed jewelry and dream vacations. A crowd of more than 1,200 supporters attended the event at the Cajundome Convention Center.

Planning has already begun for next year's gala to be held Nov. 20.

More information about Palates & Pâté or the Outreach Center, visit www.acadianaoutreach.org.