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617-365-7761 kati@threesquaresne.org

Three Squares New England Announces 'Ultimate Food Rescue Challenge'

Five Teams of Local Celebrity Chefs Collaborate to Raise Awareness around Food Rescue, Support Hunger Relief and Feed Boston's Communities in Need

Boston, MA – On August 18th, five teams of top area chefs will display their innovative talents in transforming rescued food into a spectacular tasting menu at the Ultimate Food Rescue Challenge. The majority of ingredients used will be collected hours before the event and the chefs will be challenged to quickly and creatively produce dazzling dishes for attendees. The evening will help raise awareness of the twin problems of food insecurity and food waste in Massachusetts.

"The Ultimate Food Rescue Challenge will be a celebration of solutions to food waste and hunger relief," said Kati Sigel, executive director of Three Squares New England. "We are so pleased to host celebrity chefs who passionately believe in this mission."

<u>Verde Farms</u>, a premium meat supplier providing the highest quality natural and organic grass-fed beef and lamb, is a major sponsor of the Ultimate Food Rescue Challenge. "While many people in the US are focused on eating well, there are too many just focused on searching for their next meal" stated Paul Boulanger, chief operating officer of Verde Farms. "Food Rescue is such an important and worthwhile effort, making progress simultaneously towards reducing waste as well as hunger. Verde Farms has long supported this cause through our partnership with Pine Street Inn, and we are now proud to sponsor the Rescue Challenge bringing both funds and awareness to this cause."

Attendees will not only be treated to exceptional cuisine, but also the occasion to engage with chefs, about their creations and discussions around changing the way we look at food and our food systems. Chef Joe Gatto, Private Chef, Culinary Instructor, author and host of the cutting edge cooking show *From Scratch*, is looking forward to participating in the dinner and states "I just feel the cause is fantastic and falls perfectly in line with my philosophy on giving back." Chef Frank Van Overbeeke, who oversees meal preparation for the guests of Pine Street Inn as well as meals for the iCater social enterprise's catering customers, will ably demonstrate that meals for the hungry can be delicious and eye catching as well as nutritious and filling. Ismail Samad, the Executive Chef of Daily Table, a nonprofit grocery in Boston, Massachusetts designed to simultaneously address the issues of food insecurity, nutritional health, and wasted food, is the third in the line-up of chefs for the evening and is a renowned expert in food rescue meal creation.

Les Zygomates in Boston's historic downtown leather district is the location of the event. "The Les Zygomates team is honored to be able to host and participate in the Ultimate Food Rescue Challenge" said Mark Tosi, owner of Les Zygomates. "As restaurateurs, food rescue is a critical and relevant dialogue that we wish more were engaged in these days. In addition, the concerns centered around food



insecurity and helping those in need should always be at the forefront of our daily thinking and actions. Our team doesn't view the challenge as simply a fundraising event, but more as a collective obligation to contribute towards raising awareness, understanding, and investment toward feeding those in need right in our own neighborhoods."

This event will also feature hand-selected wines, hyper-local beers, live jazz, and an auction with fabulous items such as a deluxe ski vacation package for six at Sunday River Resort in Maine.

Additional information can be found and tickets can be purchased at bit.ly/TSNEFoodChallenge. Seating is limited.

All proceeds benefit Three Squares New England, a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of 350,000 children, families and seniors in eastern and central Massachusetts who suffer from food insecurity.

About Three Squares New England and The Ride for Food

Three Squares New England is a grassroots non-profit organization that empowers a growing list of Massachusetts hunger relief organizations including community farms, food rescue agencies, food pantries, kitchens, and mobile food markets.

To alleviate food insecurity, we organize an annual charity bike ride, the Ride for Food. This year's Ride will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2016. Find out more at www.TheRideforFood.org.

About Les Zygomates

Since opening in 1994, <u>Les Zygomates</u> (pronounced lay-zee-go-matt, roughly translating to "the muscles in the face that make you smile"), the bistro and jazz bar has become an iconic landmark in Boston's Leather District, and earned a distinguished reputation for its inviting atmosphere, authentic French cuisine, and its award-winning wine lists.

