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Contact: Kris Fehr

(701) 483-8615

kris@bestfriendsnd.org

www.bestfriendsnd.org

10+ local chefs featured in Chocolate Affair at Phat Fish

Dickinson ND – A new venue featuring its own microbrewery and a spacious taproom/restaurant is the site of the 11th annual Chocolate Affair starting at 7 p.m. on April 18.

Hosted by the Best Friends Mentoring Program (BFMP) at a new location – Phat Fish Brewery at 1031 W. Villard -- the Chocolate Affair features several new tastings, including a new whiskey and bourbon tasting, unique beers produced by Phat Fish Brewery, as well as 20 hand-picked fine wines. Also included is live music by Dakota Jazz, an after party, and the chance to win one of five high-quality raffles prizes, including a mocha and white diamond pendant in rose gold valued at \$1,700 and donated by Riddle's Jewelry.

Among the guest chefs this year include: directing chef Joseph Gyno Babia and pastry chef Karla Joy Wyler of The Crossing; chef Collin Wehner of the BrickHouse Grille, Kirk Hepker of The Foodie Call, and Aaron Zummer, general manager of Sodexo at Dickinson State University.

Other featured chefs include Libby Matthews of Sweet-o-Keeto Bakery, Anna Kreidt, a 15-year-old aspiring pastry chef and student at Dickinson High School, Michelle Miller, general manager at Players Sports Bar & Grill and Lois Holland of Dickinson. Holland has directed various food operations for more than 50 years in eight states across the country.

Attendees can vote for their favorites during the People's Choice Chef Awards and take a chance at the Mystery Wine Pull, a game featuring more than 50 bottles of quality wine.

"Guests are in for a real treat this year," said Kris Fehr, executive director of BFMP. "Starting with the new venue at Phat Fish, the enhanced experience will continue with expanded tastings, an opportunity to win more prizes, live music and a lot of fun all while benefitting local youth."

Tickets are \$50 each and available at www.bestfriendsnd.org or in Dickinson at the BFMP office, 135 W. Villard. The ticket includes event admission; each guest is also eligible to enter a raffle for the mocha and white diamond pendant as well as gift packages ranging from \$200 to \$500 in value. Tickets are \$60 at the door.

Based in Dickinson, BFMP provides mentoring services to youth ages 6-16 in southwest North Dakota, including western Morton and Bowman counties. For more information, contact BFMP at (701) 483-8615.

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