

Contact: Jean Perry, Director of Development & Special Events
jperry@frontdooragency.org 603-816-0293

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Front Door Agency Hosts Successful Gourmet Festival & Auction

“There’s No Place Like Home” raises \$140,000 to serve those in need

Nashua, NH – The Front Door Agency’s 28th Annual Gourmet Festival and Auction, “There’s No Place Like Home,” raised more than \$140,000 to support individuals and families in Greater Nashua as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency. The event was held at the Nashua Country Club on March 20th, with 20 area restaurants and more than 200 guests participating.

This year’s Wizard of Oz theme highlighted the agency’s mission. “Just as Dorothy discovered she ‘always had the power within her to go home,’ many of our clients need to believe in themselves and take the steps necessary to realize their goals,” says Jean Perry, director of development. Festival guests heard from a young mother in transitional housing who spent several years battling addiction before finally achieving a stable home life for herself and her young son.

The Gourmet Festival & Auction owes much of its success to impressive culinary creations from some of the region’s finest chefs and vendors, who donate their time and food. Participants this year included 110 Grill; Bertucci’s; Burtons Grill; Celebration’s Distinctive Catering; Cruzin’ Cakes Shop; Fratello’s; Frederick’s Pastries; LaBelle Winery; MT’s Local Kitchen, Surf, Buckley’s Great Steaks and Buckley’s Bakery & Cafe; Nashua Community College; Nashua Country Club; Not Your Average Joe’s; Pine State Beverage; Riverside Barbeque; Stella Blu; Southern Wine & Spirits of New England; Sub Zero Ice Cream & Yogurt; Whole Foods Nashua and You You Japanese Bistro.

“We are so grateful to our Board of Directors, partners, auction donors, restaurants and event sponsors,” said Maryse Wirbal, CEO of the Front Door Agency. “Their support, along with the generosity of our guests, allows us to positively impact people in need in our community.”

During the event, the Agency awarded a Dr. Ronald Kraus Memorial Scholarship to Melissa, a single mother pursuing a degree in substance abuse counseling. Established in honor of long-time board member and education advocate Ronald Kraus, the fund helps to remove barriers to higher education for clients.

Strong supporters Brian and Lisa Law of Nashua were also recognized with the announcement that the Norwell House dining room will be named in their honor. The Laws made a significant contribution to kick off the Dr. Ronald Kraus Memorial Scholarship Fund at the 2013 Gourmet Festival & Auction and they have given generously to support the Agency's mission for many years, including Lisa's nearly ten years of service on the Board of Directors.

The Front Door Agency offers a transitional housing program for single mothers and their children, as well as security deposit loans and assistance with back rent and utilities, among other programs designed to help those in financial crisis avoid homelessness.

The 28th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction was presented by the Front Door Agency's 2016 Platinum Partner: BAE; Silver Partners: Cityside Management and Triangle Credit Union; Bronze Partners: Bellwether Credit Union, Lowell Five and Mesh Interactive Agency. Media and Community Partners include The Nashua Telegraph, WMUR-TV and United Way of Greater Nashua.

Major Gourmet sponsors included: RBC Wealth Management, Eastern Bank, and Right Networks. Courage sponsors were: Atlantic Parking Service, Christian Party Rental, Conway Office Solutions, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Eaton & Berube Insurance, Enterprise Bank, J. Lawrence Hall, Loren Morse Electrical Services, NH Healthy Families, NTI Data Products, Rev. Dr. "Odie" and Heidi Odierna, Stanley Elevator, St. Joseph Hospital, The Harbor Group, The Provident Bank, and UBS Financial Services. For more information about the Front Door Agency, visit www.frontdooragency.org or call 603-886-2866.



Photo Caption #1: A chef from Fratello's Italian Grille in downtown Nashua serves Festival goers at the Front Door Agency's event in March.



Photo Caption #2: Guests have the chance to interact with area chefs, including Nashua Country Club staff, while sampling gourmet food and bidding on auction items at the Front Door Agency's annual fundraiser. *(Photos courtesy of Studio Mark Emile)*