CHEFS AGAINST CANCER
GALA 2026
A Taste of Life



A Year to Remember.
A Community Making a Difference.

A Letter from Mark & Jaclyn
Chefs Against Cancer | A Taste of Life | November 2026

Dear Friends,

Five years. Five incredible celebrations. And one extraordinary community that continues to remind us what is possible when people come together for a purpose greater than themselves.

As we reflect on the 5th Annual Chefs Against Cancer Gala, held October 3, 2026, at the Charlotte Marriott City Center, we are filled with gratitude, pride and excitement for everything we have accomplished together.

What an amazing evening!

From the exceptional four-course dinner prepared by some of Charlotte's most talented chefs to the laughter, friendships, generosity and heartfelt moments shared throughout the evening, this year's Gala was truly something special.



And together, we raised approximately $148,750!

It's an incredible achievement and a wonderful milestone as we celebrate five years of bringing the culinary community together to support those affected by cancer.

But as proud as we are of that number, the true measure of our success isn't simply how much money we raise. It's what that money allows us to do.

Every ticket purchased, every sponsorship, every auction bid and every donation represents an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life right here in our Charlotte community.

And that is what Chefs Against Cancer is all about.

Four Incredible Charities. One Shared Purpose.

At the heart of Chefs Against Cancer are the four outstanding nonprofit organizations we are honored to support in 2026:

- **Xander's Acts of Kindness**
- **Paula Takacs Foundation**
- **The Meggs Foundation**
- **Barrel Aged Charities**

Each of these organizations has its own unique story, mission and approach to making a difference. What unites them is their dedication to helping individuals, families and communities affected by cancer.

We are incredibly proud to stand alongside them, celebrate their work and provide financial support that helps further their missions.

Throughout the coming year, we look forward to sharing more about these charities, introducing you to the people behind them and showing you how your generosity is making a difference.

Because when you support Chefs Against Cancer, you are also supporting the remarkable organizations working every day to bring hope, comfort, assistance and opportunity to others.

To Our Incredible Sponsors

An event of this magnitude would simply not be possible without the generosity and commitment of businesses and individuals who believe in what we are building.

We would especially like to recognize and thank our wonderful 2026 sponsors:

- **Southeast Radiation Oncology (SERO)**
- **Frank Scibelli & FS Food Group**
- **Martin's Distribution**
- **T. Ward & Associates**
- **United Restaurant & Hospitality Group**



Our 2026 Sponsors

Presenting Sponsorship

SERO

Care in action.™

Platinum Sponsorship

FS FOOD GROUP

Gold sponsorship

UNITED RESTAURANT HOSPITALITY GROUP

MARTIN'S DISTRIBUTION

CHEFS AGAINST CANCER

Thank you for supporting our cause and our mission!

Your generosity means so much more than helping us create an exceptional evening. You are investing in the health, hope and future of our Charlotte community.

Your willingness to stand beside us, believe in our mission and contribute to our success is something we never take for granted.

We are genuinely grateful for your continued support, friendship and commitment to helping others.

You are an important part of the Chefs Against Cancer family, and we thank you for making our fifth year so special.

To Our Extraordinary Chefs

The heart of Chefs Against Cancer has always been our remarkable culinary community.

This year's Gala was a wonderful example of what happens when talented chefs come together, sharing their creativity, passion and generosity for a cause greater than themselves.

We would like to personally recognize and thank our incredible 2026 culinary team:

- Chef Sam Diminich – Restaurant Constance
- Chef Mason Martinez – Private Chef
- Chef Amy Fortes – The Flipside Cafe
- Chef Jon Fortes – The Flipside Cafe
- Chef Samantha Ward – L'Ostrica
- Chef Rafaele Patrizi – Mano Bella
- Chef Andres Prüssing – Charlotte Marriott City Center
- Chef Jay Zibowski (Chef Jay Z) – Our Chef Emcee



A very special thank-you to Frank Scibelli and the **entire FS Food Group team** for providing the incredible appetizers that welcomed our guests and helped set the tone for such a memorable evening.

From the exceptional food and beautiful presentations to the countless hours of preparation and teamwork behind the scenes, every chef brought something special to this year's celebration.
We also want to recognize the dedicated Marriott culinary and banquet teams, whose hard work helped make the evening run so beautifully.








C.A.C.CHEFS
We have a star studded chef group this year!






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The level of talent, passion and professionalism in that kitchen was extraordinary. And what makes it even more meaningful is knowing that everyone came together to help support a cause that touches so many lives.



To our chefs, thank you for sharing your talents so generously.

Great food brought us together. A shared purpose made the evening extraordinary.

To Our Board, Donors and Volunteers

Behind every successful event is a group of dedicated people working tirelessly to bring everything together.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your leadership, commitment, ideas and countless hours of hard work. Much of what you do happens quietly behind the scenes, but your dedication is at the very foundation of Chefs Against Cancer.

To everyone who donated an auction item, contributed an experience, volunteered their time, helped with planning or offered support in ways both large and small, please know how much we appreciate you.

A special thank-you to Lee Brown, our amazing MC; Joe Robba, our videographer; Stefanie Haviv, our photographer; and Steve Daley, our saxophonist. We also thank Jonathan White and Amber Rose for sharing their beautiful singing voices during the evening's celebrations. You each helped make the night unforgettable.

From the excitement of the silent and live auctions to our raffles, games and special moments throughout the evening, every contribution helped create an unforgettable celebration.

We also want to thank the many businesses and individuals who continue to support our efforts throughout the year. Your generosity allows us tokeepgrowing and finding new ways to make a difference.

To Everyone Who Joined Us

Perhaps our greatest thank-you goes to the wonderful people who filled the ballroom on October 3rd. You could have spent your Saturday evening anywhere, but you chose to spend it with us.

You came to enjoy exceptional food, celebrate our community, connect with friends and, most importantly, support something meaningful.

Your enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to give made our fifth Gala an extraordinary success.

Whether you purchased a ticket, bid on an auction item, participated in a raffle, made a donation or simply helped spread the word, you played a part in what we accomplished together.

You are making a difference in the Charlotte community, and we hope you are as proud of that as we are.

Five Years Behind Us. An Exciting Future Ahead.

As we celebrate this milestone, we're also looking toward what comes next for Chefs Against Cancer.

Over the past five years, we have watched this organization grow from an annual culinary fundraiser into a community of chefs, restaurants, businesses, volunteers and supporters who share a common purpose.

This year, we took that spirit of community well beyond the Gala, with Mahjong events, community fundraisers, raffles and private dinner parties bringing people together in support of our mission. And then there was a challenge a little further from home: through our Climb for Life campaign, I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, standing at 19,341 feet, to raise awareness and funds for those affected by cancer. It was an unforgettable reminder of what determination, generosity and a shared purpose can achieve.



And we believe we are only beginning to discover what is possible.

Our vision is to bring even more chefs and restaurants into the Chefs Against Cancer family, create unique culinary experiences throughout the year and develop new fundraising opportunities that allow us to support our nonprofit partners beyond the annual Gala.

Looking toward 2027, we're especially excited about developing our Chef Ambassador Network, bringing together talented culinary professionals who want to use their skills, relationships and creativity to make a difference in their communities.

We also hope to introduce more intimate chef dinners, culinary collaborations and special events that give people new and enjoyable ways to support our mission.

Our goal is simple: to build a stronger, more connected culinary community that can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Welcome to A Taste of Life

We're also delighted to introduce something new: A Taste of Life, our monthly Chefs Against Cancer newsletter.
We want to stay connected with you throughout the entire year, not simply in the months leading up to our Gala.

Each month, we'll bring you stories and updates from the wonderful charities we support, introduce you to the chefs and restaurants helping drive our mission, celebrate our sponsors and community partners, and share news about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

Most importantly, we want to show you the difference your generosity is making.

We want you to know the people behind the organizations we support, understand the work they do and feel connected to the community you are helping us build.

Because Chefs Against Cancer has never been just about one dinner, one evening or one fundraising goal.

It's about people helping people. It's about hope. It's about community. And it's about using something we all love, food, to make life a little better for someone else.

As we close out our fifth year, we want to leave you with one final thought.

We may organize the dinners, bring the chefs together and create the opportunities to give, but it is you, our community, who make everything possible.

Thank you for believing in Chefs Against Cancer.

Thank you for supporting our chefs, our charities and our mission.

And thank you for being part of five extraordinary years.

We cannot wait to see what we accomplish together next.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jaclyn Beith & Mark Allison

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A Taste of Life
www.chefsagainstcancer.org



Meet the Team

CHEFS AGAINST CANCER BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

These are a few of the people who set out to make Chefs Against Cancer an amazing and memorable event by volunteering their time and resources. We are grateful for all those involved and appreciate everyone's dedication to the mission of Chefs Against Cancer.



President of C.A.C. Founder:
Chef Mark Allison



JACLYN BEITH
Vice President of C.A.C.
Founder & Contact



ELISE GUIMONT-BLACKBURN
C.A.C. Medical
Advisory Board Member



GIOVANNA PRIETO
C.A.C. Chair of Chef
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ANN MENDLESOHN
C. A. C. Secretary &
Advisory Board Member



SUE YATES
C. A. C. Treasurer &
Finance Board Member



FRANK SCIBELLI
C. A. C. Culinary Board
Advisory Member



REILLY SHEA
Advisory Board
Member for C.A.C.



LUCIA ZATS
Events & Advisory Board
Member for C.A.C.



BRIANNA FLEMMING
Organization & Advisory
Board Member for C.A.C.

The Night in Pictures

Moments from the Fifth Annual Chefs AgainstCancer Gala

















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