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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR THE 2012 CHARLIE AWARDS

Minneapolis (October 1, 2012) --- Tickets are now on sale for the second annual [CHARLIE AWARDS](#), a celebration that recognizes the exceptional contributions of the Twin Cities metro area restaurant, food and drink industry. The Charlies will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2012 at the Pantages Theatre in downtown Minneapolis (710 Hennepin Ave.) beginning at 2 p.m. A VIP brunch sponsored by *Mpls.St. Paul Magazine* will precede the show at 11:30 a.m. at The Brave New Workshop. There will also be an after-party sponsored by *Minnesota Monthly* from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the IDS Center Crystal Court.

Tickets for the CHARLIE AWARDS are available online at [charliesexceptionale.com](#); at the box offices of the State, Orpheum and Pantages theatres; or at any Ticketmaster outlet. Tickets for the main show and after-party are \$35 (\$25 for members of the food community). Tickets for all three events, including the VIP brunch, are \$100, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Open Arms of Minnesota.

The Charlie's celebrate all of the organizations, businesses and individuals who comprise the Twin Cities' food industry. The awards being presented are: Lifetime Achievement; Community Hero; Outstanding Chef, Emerging Chef, Pastry Chef, Service, Bartender, Restaurateur, Restaurant, Restaurant Design, Food Truck, Food Item, Local Craft Brew and Cup of Coffee. There is also a special Neighborhood Hero award, given to a restaurant that has made positive change happen at the local level.

The award show will be 90 minutes of live entertainment featuring emcee Brian "B.T" Turner from Cities97, and will highlight some of the best and brightest in the business. The awards will consist of two components – individuals and businesses honored by their peers and outstanding food recognized by the public and industry leaders.

Awards for individuals and businesses will be determined by a vote of all restaurants participating in the Charlie Awards. Each restaurant participating will have one vote in the various categories, with the individual/business having the most votes in each category receiving recognition. Food and beverage items receiving recognition will be determined by both the public and a panel of experts.

Any non-franchised restaurant or food truck may enter one food item they believe is representative of their business. For information on how to enter your business and participate in the 2012 Charlie Awards, visit [charliesexceptionale.com](#). The deadline for applications is October 14, 2012.

Sponsors are: General Mills, HealthPartners, Carlson, U.S. Foods, Walser Automotive, Open Arms, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Mpls.St. Paul Magazine*, Cities97, 2 Gingers, Joia, Ispíri Design-Build, Kohler, G&K Services, Open Table, Horizon Food Service Equipment and the Minnesota Restaurant Association.

About The Charlie Awards

The awards are named after the legendary restaurant, Charlie's Café Exceptionale, which was a mainstay in downtown Minneapolis until the 1980s. The Charlie Awards were created to recognize the outstanding contributions that our metro area food and restaurant industry to ensure a diverse, vibrant and creative lifestyle and economy. The Charlie's are the inspiration of Minnesota's own culinary expert and James Beard award-winning food journalist, Sue Zelickson. Visit [charliesexceptional.com](#) for more information on the 2012 Charlie Awards.

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