



## THE 2012 CHARLIE AWARDS: THE CELEBRATION OF TWIN CITIES FOOD & DRINK

***Sunday, November 11 – Three Events in Downtown Minneapolis***

**WHO:** Members of the Twin Cities' restaurant, food and drink industry and people who love good food; Culinary students from the Art Institutes International of Minnesota, Hennepin Technical College, Le Cordon Bleu and The St. Paul College, who will be catering the VIP Brunch and After Party.

**WHAT:** The second annual Charlie Awards will honor businesses and individuals who comprise the Twin Cities' restaurant, food and drink industry in the following categories: Lifetime Achievement; Community Hero; Outstanding Neighbor; Outstanding Chef; Emerging Food Professional; Outstanding Pastry Chef; Outstanding Restaurant Service; Outstanding Bartender; Outstanding Restaurateur; Outstanding Restaurant; Outstanding Restaurant Design; Outstanding Local Craft Brew; and Outstanding Cup of Coffee.

The Charlie Awards will consist of two components: individuals and businesses honored by their peers, as well as a nod for Outstanding Restaurant Item and Outstanding Food Truck Item as voted on by the public and industry leaders.

**The awards show, emceed by Cities 97's Brian "B.T." Turner, will be 90 minutes of live entertainment featuring performances by Mick Sterling, Erin Schwab with Jay Fuchs and his band, Better Bones and Jonathan Locke.**

**WHEN/** Sunday, November 11, 2012 in downtown Minneapolis  
**WHERE:** 11:30 a.m. VIP Brunch at the Brave New Workshop (824 Hennepin Ave. So.)  
 2 p.m. Awards Show at The Pantages Theatre (710 Hennepin Ave. So.)  
 3:30 p.m. After Party at IDS Center Crystal Court (80 So. 8<sup>th</sup> Street)

**INFO:** [www.charliesexceptionale.com](http://www.charliesexceptionale.com)

**MORE:** The 2012 Charlie Awards finalists for Outstanding Restaurant Item are: Zen Box Izakaya (*Tonkotsu "TonZen" Ramen*); Sanctuary (*Garlic, Spinach and Parmesan Artichoke Tartlets, Provençal Olives, Cornichons and a Shot of White Verjus*); Stanley's Northeast Bar Room (*Smoked BBQ Brisket Sandwich, Smoked Brisket Nachos*); Masu Sushi and Robata Minneapolis (*Masu Roll*); Porter Creek Hardwood Grill (*Frenched Bone-In Pork Chop with Apricot Chutney*); Parma 8200 (*Linguine & Clams, White Wine & Garlic*); iPho by Saigon (*Pho - Traditional Rice Noodle Soup*); La Grolla (*Capesante*); Doolittles Woodfire Grill Golden Valley (*Spit-Roasted Chicken*); Gold Nugget Tavern and Grill (*Bacon Burger*).

The finalists for Outstanding Food Truck Item are: Vellee Deli Food Truck (*Korean BBQ Burrito*) and Hola Arepa Food Truck (*Slow Roasted Pork Arepa*).

Sponsors for the Charlie Awards are: General Mills, HealthPartners, Radisson Hotels, Walser Automotive, U.S. Foods, Open Arms, 2 GINGERS<sup>®</sup> Irish Whiskey, Chameleon Concessions, Palm Brothers, JOIA Soda, Ispíri Design-Build, Kohler, OpenTable, Horizon Food Service Equipment, G&K Services, Thousand Hills Cattle Company, Peterson Farms, the Minnesota Beef Council, the Minnesota Restaurant Association, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Mpls. St. Paul Magazine*, Cities 97, and Minneapolis2Night.

Partners of the Charlie Awards include: *Twin Cities Food Finds*, *Food Service News* and *Edible Twin Cities*.