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2016 CHARLIE AWARDS

Sixth Annual Celebration of the Twin Cities Food & Beverage Community to be held Sunday, Nov. 13

Minneapolis (August 17, 2016) --- The sixth annual Charlie Awards, a showcase for our local independent food and beverage community, will be held Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 at the Pantages Theatre (710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis). This year's Charlies will also salute area farmers and their contributions to the industry.

This year's Charlies will include a trio of tasty events:

- An entertainment-packed show at the Pantages Theatre beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- The Minnesota Monthly After Party in the IDS Crystal Court, beginning at approximately 5 p.m., will feature live music, specialty cocktails, and sample-size dishes prepared by students at area culinary schools.
- The culmination culinary masterpiece of the day will be the Chefs' Dinner at Windows on Minnesota (50th floor of the IDS) beginning at 6:30 p.m. The four-course dinner with wine pairings will feature the four chefs honored at late year's Charlie Awards: Gavin Kaysen (Spoon & Stable), Thomas Kim (Left Handed Cook), Marshall Paulsen (Birchwood Café), and Karyn Tomlinson (Borough).

Awards to be announced at The Charlie Awards include: Lifetime Achievement; Community Hero, Outstanding Chef; Outstanding Emerging Chef (a food professional with five years or less of experience); Outstanding Service; Outstanding Restaurateur; Outstanding Restaurant; Outstanding Interior Design; Outstanding Pastry Chef; Outstanding Local Craft Brew, Outstanding Beverage Program, Outstanding Food Truck, and Outstanding Bartender.

Tickets are now available at charliesexceptionale.com; at the box offices of the State, Orpheum and Pantages theatres; or at any Ticketmaster outlet. The cost for the main show and after-party at the IDS Crystal Court is \$35 (\$25 for industry members). The cost for attending all three events (awards show, after-party and Chefs Dinner) is \$150, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Open Arms of Minnesota. Open Arms is the only nonprofit organization in the state that cooks and delivers free meals specifically tailored to meet the nutritional needs of individuals living with life-threatening illnesses.

Sponsors for the 2016 Charlies include: General Mills, U.S. Foods, Land O'Lakes, Monroe, Moxness & Berg, Intermix Beverage Co., Open Table, Bellisio, Minnesota Restaurant Association, Trincherro Family Estates, Kowalski's, Hockenberg's, Legacy Meats, Diversified Construction, Minneapolis St. Paul Chapter National Association for Catering and Events, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Food Service News*, Windows on Minnesota, Marquette Hotel, J.T. Mega, Mise en Place consulting, Minnesota Farmers Union, BET Vodka, and Dynamic Products Midwest.

The Charlies will host two Hot Topics panel discussions before the awards show in November:

- September 13 at Rayette Lofts in St. Paul
- October 25 at General Mills headquarters in Golden Valley

These events are free and open to the public and include a complimentary happy hour.

For more information on the 2016 Charlie Awards, please visit CharliesExceptionale.com. Find us on Twitter @CharlieAwards or Facebook (CharlieAwards).

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