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EXTRA! EXTRA!
ILLINOIS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL YEAR
WITH 37th ANNUAL RESTAURATEURS EVENT

From the Chef’s Table presented by Home Run Inn: A Roaring 20’s Celebration

(CHICAGO, IL – November 2014) –The [Illinois Restaurant Association](#), commemorating it’s 100th anniversary in 2014, is pleased to announce [From the Chef’s Table presented by Home Run Inn](#). The 37th annual edition, a “Roaring 20’s” celebration, takes place **Friday, November 14, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.** at the [Hyatt Regency Chicago](#) (151 E. Wacker Drive). In honor of 100 years of unparalleled hospitality, attendees are invited to feast on signature dishes from the city’s top restaurants while benefiting students with goals of pursuing a career in the industry.

Proceeds from the event benefit the [Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation’s](#) ProStart[®] program and Scholarship Initiative. The mission of the Educational Foundation is to build the future hospitality workforce through career exploration, development programs, and scholarships. To date, almost \$2.5 million in scholarships have been awarded.

“It’s been a milestone year for the IRA, and we’re thrilled to continue to celebrate the importance and success of the state’s restaurant industry with our annual fundraising event,” said Illinois Restaurant Association President and CEO Sam Toia. “This event ensures that we are able to support our future hospitality leaders through the ProStart[®] program. High school ProStart[®] students will be assisting chefs and getting important exposure to the industry at the event. It’s going to be a spectacular evening and we encourage everyone to join in the fun by dressing up, dancing and dining for a difference.”

The event will include a cocktail reception, chef’s table offerings, an impressive silent auction, networking opportunities, live entertainment and décor and elements reflective of the iconic decade.

The cost to attend is \$250 per person, and tickets may be purchased at www.illinoisrestaurants.org. The IRA Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and \$150 of each ticket is deductible as a charitable donation.

From the Chef’s Table would not be possible without the generosity of the following sponsors:

Eurest Dining Services, Freeborn & Peters, Premier Restaurant Group, Eurest Dining Services, Texas de Brazil, Turano Baking Company, Choose Chicago, Ecolab, HMSHost, Hyatt Regency Chicago, IMR, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Mahoney Environmental, Manny's Cafeteria and Delicatessen, Mesirow Financial, Plante Moran, US Foods, Heartland Payment Systems, Sysco, Reinhart Foodservice, Resource POS, Edward Don & Company, Gordon Food Service, Pepsi, Heil & Kay Insurance Agency Inc., United Healthcare, and Coca Cola.

About the Illinois Restaurant Association

Founded in 1914, the Illinois Restaurant Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, educating and improving the restaurant industry in Illinois. For more information, visit www.illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the IRAEF

The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation is a 501c(3) dedicated to building the Illinois hospitality workforce through career exploration, workforce development programs and scholarships.

ProStart® is a national school-to-careers program that prepares high school students for careers in culinary arts and hospitality management. In Illinois, ProStart® is administered by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to almost 4,000 students at 59 schools in the Chicagoland area. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and articulated credits for college while in high school. The Foundation provides work readiness training and connects students with industry professionals through job shadowing and internships to help students hone their skills in the foodservice industry. The ProStart® program is also offered in 48 states serving more than 100,000 high school students in more than 1,700 high schools. For more information, visit www.nraef.org.

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