



Forever Families Through Adoption

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**Press Release
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On Thursday, September 23rd, **Forever Families Through Adoption** (FFTA) of Rye Brook, NY greeted 100 guests under a white tent on a clear night for a gourmet tasting event and silent auction at the Stonewall Pond Estate in Greenwich, CT for a charity event. This was the second annual gourmet event benefiting FFTA, a NY and CT licensed adoption placement agency and resource center.

This year's event has already raised \$15,000 in ticket sales and donations, with additional proceeds from the silent auction still being counted. The money raised will be used for education and outreach programs in schools, hospitals, prisons and community centers in both NY and CT, and towards the creation of a mentoring program for teen adoptees.

Joy and Michael Goldstein co-founded FFTA in April 2007. Michael is an adoption attorney with his own law firm, and he and his wife are both social workers. Together they are adoptive parents of three who have worked alongside each other helping families with the adoption process for more than 25 years. "We decided to open a nonprofit adoption agency to be able to provide more services to our clients," Joy said. "And most importantly to be able to educate the community, professionals and students in the school systems, patients in the local hospitals, and provide outreach to pregnant women that are incarcerated and think they have no options other than state foster care for their unplanned pregnancies."

Several local restaurants prepared tasting dishes for the event, and some of the participants included Rye's Morgan's Fish House and Ruby's Oyster Bar, along with Café Mirage and Sonora in Port Chester. Barcelona in Greenwich, the Melting Pot in White Plains, Southport Brewing Company in Stamford also participated along with The Wine Gallery in Rye Brook and Aries Wine and Spirits from White Plains. Other sponsors included, White Plains Linen, All Star Imports in Yonkers, and gourmet desserts were provided by Le Renaissance Patisserie Francaise of Scarsdale and Sweet Lisa's of Cos Cob, with Chocolations of Mamaroneck indulging the chocolate lovers of the crowd. Frank's House of Flowers in Mamaroneck once again donated the striking floral arrangements. Attendees got to sample delectable fare that included Key West Conch fritters with Spicy Remoulade, Sashimi Tuna Spring rolls with soy ginger dipping sauce and wasabi sauce, Pan Fried Oysters, Tuna Tartar Pizza, Meatball sliders, Free Range Organic Chicken Tortilla Soup, Mini crab cakes, shots of Gazpacho soup and two different cheese fondues.

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Board of Directors: Nancy E. Laxer, *President* • Kenneth P. Martin, *Treasurer* • Nancy Loudon, *Secretary*
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Lisa McKiernan of the Pearl Restaurant Group, the company that owns Ruby's and Morgan's, was on the FFTA event committee last year and helped create the idea of the gourmet tasting event. Her husband, Brendan is on both the event committee and the Board of Directors of FFTA. Lisa stated, "their oldest son was adopted and FFTA is the agency that found him for us...we like to give back to the community and to FFTA for helping to make us parents".

The Stonewall Pond estate is the home of board members Betsy Sorrel Martin and Ken Martin. To add even more flare to the event, members of the Danbury High School Orchestra played as guests arrived and as they sampled the gourmet dishes. "We try to get the orchestra out to get a good experience and this fund raiser is an example," said Mary Peters, the school's orchestra director. As the evening wound down entertainment was provided by a jazz quartet from the SUNY Purchase music conservatory along with SUNY student vocalist (and FFTA staff member) Sofia Sarkisian.

FFTA is staffed by social workers, adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and attorneys. Joy believes that the organization's small "boutique" size and hands on attention are what sets FFTA apart. "Many of the FFTA staff has been through the experience personally". Last year the event raised \$30,000, and according to Joy, FFTA is feeling the effects of the poor economy and found it more challenging this year in terms of tickets sales. But she said the cause is so worthwhile that people are still willing to give. "It's all about the children," she said. "Adoption has touched so many lives."

For more information about adoption or FFTA please call # **914-939-1180** or check out their website: www.ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org