

10th Annual
Taste of Mower County
Sunday, April 26, 2020
To benefit LIFE Mower County



To: Area Chefs and Restaurants
From: LIFE Mower County - Formerly The Arc Mower County
Re: 10th Annual Taste of Mower County

We have heard about your outstanding culinary skills, and would love for you to showcase your talent at the 10th annual **Taste of Mower County**. We are seeking restaurant chefs, caterers, or home chefs to participate in this important fundraiser for our organization. The event is an excellent opportunity to promote your talents with and help our participants achieve a better quality of life.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center. Guests will enjoy unlimited tastings of signature items from the finest home and restaurant chefs in Mower County and the surrounding area. There will also be silent and live auctions, wine and craft beer tastings, door prizes, games, entertainment and a cash bar. The Taste of Mower County promises to be a fun evening that raises much needed funds for our organization.

Every dollar raised through this event is used to provide programs for children, teens, adults and seniors with intellectual disabilities and their families enjoy a better quality of life in our community. These programs include Special Olympics, Our Place Recreation Center, Transportation, Advocacy and Family Support and People First Aktion Club.

Detailed information about chef expectations and responsibilities are enclosed along with a registration form. Can we count on you this year to join the fun? Two complimentary tickets (a \$60 value) are provided to each participating chef. Check out our web and Facebook pages, where we promote the Taste of Mower County, our sponsors and donors, as they team up with us. You will also see a list of participating chefs, restaurants and wine tasting partners.

The sooner you return your commitment, the more promotion you will receive. The deadline to be included on print advertising will be February 29, 2020. Again, thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 507-433-8994 or send an email to info@lifemowercounty.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Helgeson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawn Helgeson
Executive Director
LIFE Mower County

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LIFE
Mower County
Learning, Inclusion,
Fun & Empowerment

10th Annual Taste of Mower County:

- Sunday, April 26, 2020 at the Austin Holiday Inn Grand Ballroom from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. You can set up your display between 1:00 – 3:30. You must be set up no later than 3:30 PM. If you are running late, please call Jamey Helgeson at 507-438-3999.
- Participants make bite size portions of their signature dish. In 2019 we had 272 people attend so you will want to plan accordingly. The event begins at 4:00 PM; however you will not start serving until 4:30 PM.
- We will have categories of Restaurant Chef (Appetizer, Entrée or Dessert) and Home Chef (Appetizer, Entrée or Dessert) for entry.
- The guests then vote on their favorite in each category. Awards will be given to the top chefs in each category.
- If you need to plug in a warmer or need electricity for anything, please bring your own 110 outlet extension cord. Holiday Inn will allow the chefs access to their kitchen if needed (fryers, refrigerator, etc.). You are also responsible for cleaning up your own area.
- Please bring whatever you need to serve your bite sized portions (Example: utensils, plates, bowls, etc.) LIFE Mower County will provide large plates.
- Booths will not be judged, however, you can decorate your booth if you would like.
- Each chef can bring one person to help for free; you and your guest are automatically entered for drawings.
- Feel free to bring coupons, menus, promotional items, etc. to market your restaurant or business.
- There is a separate drawing for chefs only.
- This is the largest fundraiser of the year for LIFE Mower County. LIFE Mower County's mission is to expand opportunities, empower people, and enrich lives for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing a better quality of life through Learning, Inclusion, Fun and Empowerment. To learn more about LIFE Mower County, visit www.lifemowercounty.org.

If you would like to register to participate in the 10th Annual Taste of Mower County, please visit <https://www.lifemowercounty.org/tomc2020> before February 29, 2020. If you have any questions, call 507-433-8994 or email info@lifemowercounty.org. This is an event you don't want to miss! If you wish to share your recipe(s) please have copies ready to hand out.

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The Taste of Mower County Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I participate?
 - a. It helps to promote your restaurant and the kinds of food you prepare as a chef and brings more awareness and business to you. The funds help to provide programs for people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Mower County. This is a great time to promote any new items on your menu or great items that many people may not realize you offer.
2. What does it cost me?
 - a. Only the cost of the food samples you provide and any items you may donate for the live and/or silent auction. (Approximately 300 food samples you give out during the event.) For example: Pizza places will give a small slice of pizza, some give a small cupcake or small bowl of soup. Anything you feel may attract business for you.
3. What do I have to do?
 - a. All you are required to do is serve your food. We hope you have enough food for the entire event. If you run out of food, maybe bring some coupons to pass out. While you are serving your food, you greet the ticket holders and make connections to promote your business. You can place anything on your table or hand out information/flyers/coupons to promote your business.
4. How does this support LIFE Mower County?
 - a. This night will generate over \$20,000 in ticket sales, sponsorships, and live and silent auction proceeds for programs for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.
5. What if I'm unable to participate?
 - a. No worries! For the chefs or restaurants that want to help but are unable to donate food, you can donate items to be auctioned off for the silent and/or live auction. If you want to donate funds, we will gladly accept your donations.

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10th Annual Taste of Mower County Chef/Restaurant Registration Form

Restaurant / Chef Name _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Appetizer _____

Entrée _____

Dessert _____

I/We would like to donate an item(s) to the live and/or silent auction

I understand that the event will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. I further understand LIFE Mower County - will provide the following items for me/us:

_____ # of Tables: 1 or 2 - 6 foot tables are available per restaurant or chef. Please only request what you need.

_____ # of Chairs: 1 - 4 chairs are available per restaurant or chef. Please only request what you need.

_____ Kitchen: Holiday Inn will allow the chefs access to their kitchen if needed (fryers, refrigerator, etc.). You will be placed closer to the kitchen doors.

LIFE Mower County will provide publicity through advertising, tickets, posters, etc. I understand I am only to provide:

1. Bite-sized food samples for 300
2. Set-up will be held from 1:30-3:30 on the day of the event. I will setup and be prepared to serve by 3:30
3. Please bring whatever you need to serve your bite-sized portions.