



RECORD AMOUNT RAISED AT SPRING FLING

Northern Lights Health Foundation event leads to \$245,000 for Operation Miracle Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday March 29th, 2010

Fort McMurray, AB – A crowd of over 750 guests enjoyed an amazing real Canadian food experience designed and prepared by Chef Michael Smith of Chef at Home on Food Network and a local culinary dream team. The evening included an address by Chef Smith, a silent auction, raffles, live auction and live entertainment from band – Hey Romeo. Proceeds of \$245,000 will go towards Operation Miracle the equipment campaign for replacement of the anesthesia machines in the Operating Rooms at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre. This total is more than double the 2009 proceeds from the Spring Fling event.

“Transforming our annual Spring Fling into a spectacular Chef’s Extravaganza was lead by the vision and hard work of Ramona & Shelley Morrison, Brian Hatfield and Cliff Deveau. They were integral to the event being such an overwhelming success,” stated Joe MacNeil Chair of the Northern Lights Health Foundation Board of Directors. “We are truly grateful and honored by the generosity and support extended to us by our entire community. The funds raised make the purchase of an anesthesia machine immediately possible.”

The Operating Rooms at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre are busy places that provide comprehensive care to patients who suffer from illnesses ranging from ulcers and motility problems, to cancer and liver disease, to mothers requiring Caesarean delivery. Operation Miracle is dedicated to raising funds to support the purchase of the most up-to-date anesthetic equipment to ensure our medical professionals have the best tools to provide quality care to our young and old alike.

The culinary dream team included Chef Michael Smith’s Chief Chef Bill Pratt, along with chefs from the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, Radisson Suites and Hotel, Smitty’s Restaurant, MacDonald Island Park and SNC Lavalin O & M. This is the 23rd year for the Spring Fling gala event and the first time it has been held at the new Suncor Community Leisure Centre at MacDonald Island Park. Live auction items for the event included a trip to New York, a naked Christmas tree complete with design services by Bonnie Mitchell, a vacation home rental in Florida, a spa package for four with limousine transportation and an unused 2010 Olympic Torch. The Olympic Torch went for top dollar on the live auction, bringing in \$18,000 for Operation Miracle.

From this event the Operation Miracle campaign is now \$675,000 (73%) towards the overall goal of \$930,000 for the new anesthesia machines.

Established in 1985, the Northern Lights Health Foundation exists to provide funds to support Alberta Health Services within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Health care here. For you. For us.

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