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Regional chefs to cook for a benefit for tornado victims

BY SANDRA OKAMOTO

Chefs are going to do what they do best: cook. And they're hoping you'll come out to eat their meals and help raise money for victims of the April 27 tornadoes that devastated areas of Alabama.

Mark your calendar for this tasty event.

"Chefs to the Rescue," including those from Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Washington, D.C., are participating in this event, at 7-9:30 p.m. EDT June 1 in the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

The money raised will go to the Auburn Family All-In Relief Fund that helps those affected by the April 27 tornadoes.

"The concept of 'Chefs to the Rescue' came naturally after seeing the devastation th tornadoes had left across the state," Hans van der Reijden, managing director of the Hotel at Auburn University, said in a statement. "The culinary talents of this town and from around the country decided to do what we do best -- gather a group of friends and colleagues together to cook amazing food and provide support and comfort to those in need. We can do so much more working collectively than working separately."

The chefs include Andrew Litherland and Miguel Figueroa of Ariccia Trattoria & Bar in the Hotel at Auburn University; Leonardo Maurelli of the Hotel at Auburn University; John Hamme, Maestro 2300, Auburn; David Bancroft, Amsterdam Cafe, Auburn; Graham Hage, Zazu Gastropub, Auburn; Rob McDaniel, SpringHouse, Alexander City, Ala.; Chris Hastings, Hot and Hot Fish Club, Birmingham; Michael Schwartz, Michael's Genuine Food & Drink, Miami; Julio Delgado, Ritz-Carlton Buckhead, Atlanta; Cameron Thompson, Two Urban Licks, Atlanta; James W. Mullaney, CEPC (certified executive pastry chef), Atlanta Foods International; Tim Creehan, Cuvee Bistro, Destin, Fla.; Ken Duenas, Cafe Thirty-A, Destin and Kevin Sbraga, the 2010 Top Chef winner, Washington, D.C.

They will create dishes that will be paired with wine or beer.

Tickets are \$100 or \$1,000 for the VIP "Meet the Chefs" reception after the event.

Call Mike Clardy at 334-844-9996.

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