



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL CELEBRITY CHEF HONORED AT SWEET CHARITY EVENT

Washington, D.C. (June 21, 2010) – Chef Spike Mendelsohn, owner of Good Stuff Eatery and runner-up on the hit reality TV show Top Chef, was awarded the Albert Uster Chef of the Year Award at this year's Sweet Charity event; a local benefit co-hosted by Albert Uster Imports (AUI), a Swiss fine gourmet food company, and The Heart of America Foundation, a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. that uniquely combines volunteerism and literacy to support children in need nationwide. Proceeds from Sweet Charity will go to help The Heart of America Foundation's Books From The Heart® program to provide books to children living in poverty in the D.C. metropolitan area who have few or no books of their own.

Chef Spike, as he is known by his loyal following, has firm groundings in the culinary world beginning with formal training at the Culinary Institute of America, to working in renowned restaurants in the Napa Valley, New York and France. Good Stuff Eatery, his most recent venture, opened on Capitol Hill in the spring of 2008 and features the best of American favorites: handcrafted burgers, hand-cut fries, and tasty shakes.

Mendelsohn, along with other local chefs, has taken steps to work with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move initiative to reform the school lunch program and end childhood obesity within a generation. As part of his efforts, Mendelsohn has been teaching cooking classes to students and parents at metro area schools as well as helping to plant school gardens.

Recipients of the Albert Uster Chef of the Year Award must be acting culinary professionals who assume an active role in their community and are respected by their fellow colleagues and community as a whole. The award winners are recognized at the Sweet Charity event and have one-thousand books donated to a local-DC elementary school in the name of the honoree.

About The Heart of America Foundation®

The Heart of America Foundation, a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, DC uniquely combines volunteerism and literacy. The organization's focus is to provide children in need everywhere with the tools to read, succeed and make a difference. The Heart of America Foundation puts books into the hands of children who need them the most while transforming school libraries in underserved communities into vital and vibrant centers of learning that become the heart of a school. Since 1997, the organization has provided children living in poverty with over 1.85 million library and take-home books, and engaged volunteers in more than 1,020,000 hours of service to the community.



About Albert Uster Imports, Inc.

Albert Uster Imports is an importer and distributor of over 1,000 high-quality ingredients, semi-finished and finished gourmet products. Predominantly known for its Swiss Des Alpes Chocolate (and all things sweet), the company branched into savory as well as frozen lines, becoming a well-rounded, fine gourmet food house that it is today. The wide range of services include: excellent customer service, recipe and menu development, a comprehensive website www.aiswiss.com, an online store, newsletters, continuing culinary education classes and a database of over 500 recipe.

About Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C.

Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C. redefines luxury as Washington, D.C.'s most sophisticated hotel. Transitional in design, with stylish oriental flair, the hotel provides an unparalleled guest experience, with Mandarin Oriental's legendary reputation for award-winning service.

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