ACF Pittsburgh Chapter Donates $10,000 to ACF Culinary Team USA

Members Join Together to Support Chefs Who Competed at the “culinary Olympics”

St. Augustine, Fla., November 10, 2008—The American Culinary Federation (ACF) Pittsburgh Chapter announced Nov. 6, a donation of $10,000 to ACF Culinary Team USA to help cover the teams expenses at the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA) International Culinary Art Competition, or “culinary Olympics,” Oct. 19–22, in Erfurt, Germany.

“ACF Pittsburgh Chapter always comes through for ACF, because of its wonderful members and dedication to culinary advancement,” said John Kinsella, CMC, CCE, WGMC, AAC, ACF national president. “I was honored when I received word of the donation to ACF Culinary Team USA. Chapters like the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter enabled our team to win a world regional championship and for all of our teams to place within the top overall. Our success at the ‘culinary Olympics’ was intertwined with the support from ACF members in Pittsburgh and across the United States.”

This is the chapter’s second $10,000 donation to ACF Culinary Team USA. The first was in 2004, when the chapter raised funds to support the team and one of its members, Scott Fetty, who was then a member of ACF Culinary Team USA’s regional team. This year, the 250-member chapter rallied again to recognize Fetty, a member of the 2008 AAC Culinary Regional Team USA, and support all of America’s “culinary Olympic” chefs. The chapter’s donation was a direct result of a special fundraising event, The Pittsburgh Olympic Chefs’ Dinner, which was held at Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa., Sept. 16.

The fundraising dinner showcased the talents and history of ACF Pittsburgh Chapter Olympic chefs through the years. Framed IKA medals, photos and biographies were displayed, and past “culinary Olympic” team members helped coordinate the event and plan menus.

“Chef Fetty (as well as all the ACF team members) has donated hours, days, weeks, months and years of personal time to represent our chapter and country on an international level,” said Andrea Schrenk, CEPC, CCE, ACF Pittsburgh Chapter president. “This dedication to excellence has resulted in numerous gold medals. What better way to support Chef Fetty and his team members than to help ease the financial burden connected to such a large-scale endeavor?”

At this year’s “culinary Olympics,” ACF Culinary National Team USA earned two gold medals and one -more-
silver medal in cold food, a gold medal in hot food, and placed seventh overall in the world. Both AAC Culinary Regional Team USA and ACF Culinary Regional Team USA earned a gold medal in their competitions. ACF Culinary Regional Team USA was named regional world champion and AAC Culinary Regional Team USA placed sixth overall.

ACF Culinary Youth Team USA earned a gold medal in cold food, a silver medal in hot food and placed fourth overall in the world. The U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team, including four ACF members, earned a gold medal in hot food, a gold medal in cold food and placed second overall. More than 30 ACF members competed in individual competitions, garnering eight gold medals, 15 silver medals, 13 bronze medals and five diplomas.

Known as the “culinary Olympics” by culinarians around the world, IKA, taking place every four years, is one of the most revered international competitions. Culinary teams and individuals train intensely for years to showcase their culinary skills, prove they are the best and receive a coveted medal, just as athletes train for the Olympics. Winning gold, silver and bronze medals is considered the ultimate accomplishment within the culinary industry. Judging is based on a point system, with medals awarded daily, and the overall category winners are announced at the final awards ceremony, at which time, scoring is released.

ACF Culinary Team USA is the official representative team of the United States in major national and international culinary competitions. It comprises one national team of six members, two regional teams with five members each, and a youth team of five members younger than 23 years old. Sponsors of ACF Culinary Team USA are Kraft Foodservice, Tyson Food Service, Uncle Ben’s, Unilever, Club Managers Association of America, KitchenAid, Chef Revival, Fortessa, The Beef Checkoff, Friedr. Dick, Westchester Country Club and Blodgett.

About the American Culinary Federation
The American Culinary Federation, Inc., established in 1929, is the premier professional organization for culinarians in North America. With more than 21,500 members spanning 230 chapters nationwide, ACF is the culinary leader in offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and accreditation. In addition, ACF operates the most comprehensive certification program for chefs in the United States. ACF is home to ACF Culinary Team USA, the official representative for the United States in major international culinary competitions. For more information, visit www.acfchefs.org.