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Kidango hosts annual Tasters Showcase



By Meenu Gupta
Photos By Courtesy of Leigh M. Corrigan-Owens

What's the recipe for a perfect party? Start with a lively reception featuring tastings from Thomas Coyne Winery and Wente Vineyards then bid at a silent and live auction with hundreds of items, including travel getaways. Add fantastic food from some of the best local restaurants and caterers, coupled with fine wines to create the perfect masterpiece.

Kidango's 14th annual food and wine Taster's Showcase is one such party and now that some 350 people attend the annual event, it has moved to the Fremont Marriott. Indulge your taste buds as Kidango celebrates its 30th anniversary with an array of delights from 14 restaurants including crowd favorites like The Pampered Chef, TGI Fridays, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Burrito Loco Taqueria, and Jamba Juice. Bid on fantastic prizes from Disney tickets to an exciting week-long stay in a Jamaican villa while enjoying the fun of a raffle drawing.

"Though we have several community outreach programs throughout the year, this is our main fundraising event." said Leigh Corrigan-Owens, Kidango's development & communications assistant manager.

Kidango's early care and education programs provide a variety of services to over 2,500 children whose parents have low to moderate income, as well as children with disabilities or who have been abused and neglected.

Formerly known as the Tri-Cities Children's Center, Kidango's first child development center opened in Fremont in 1979. Three decades later, the agency has grown to provide early child care in eight Bay Area Cities. "We have 38 centers in the area, 11 in Fremont, 11 in Union City," Corrigan-Owens said. "We also have centers in San Jose and San Francisco. The proceeds from the event will benefit local kids."

Live Auction items include a week's stay at Datura Villa in Jamaica, or four days and three nights in a beautiful mountain cabin near Big Trees State Park. Silent Auction and raffle prizes include spa baskets and gift certificates to kids' destinations like Happy Hollow, Oakland Zoo, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and a family four-pack of tickets to California 's Great America.

To donate items such as gift certificates, electronics or sports memorabilia to either auction, contact Corrigan-Owens at lcorrigan@kidango.org or (510) 897-6920. Financial contributions are always welcome. Those interested in helping in this way can contact Marc Baker at mbaker@kidango.org or (510) 897-6913.

Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$45 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling (510) 897-6912 or mailing/visiting Kidango Administrative Office, Taster's Showcase Tickets, 44000 Old Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

Taster's Showcase
Sunday, April 19
1 - 4 p.m.
Fremont Marriott
46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont
(800) 262-4252, ext. 6912
www.tastersshowcase.org

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