



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Renowned Chef and Culinary Expert Mary Chamberlin to Appear as A Judge at Kidango's Taster's Showcase

Fremont, CA –March 30, 2011— Kidango, a nonprofit child development agency with 41 centers in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, announced that well-known chef, caterer, and culinary author Mary Chamberlin will be a judge at its annual food and beverage filled fundraiser Taster's Showcase.

The Carmel, CA based Mary Chamberlin's achievements and titles (past and present) include: member of the prestigious James Beard Foundation, Advisory Board Member of the Culinary Center of Monterey, Chair and Member of the Board of the American Institute of Wine & Food Monterey Bay Chapter, National Vice Chair of the American Institute of Wine & Food, founder of the Central Coast Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International and Agent for Michel Escoffier and the Foundation Auguste Escoffier and the Escoffier Museum of Culinary Arts in Villeneuve-Loubet in the South of France.

She has also studied at Cordon Bleu and La Varenne, and become proficient in a range of cuisines, including Cantonese, European and American. Her work embodies a lifetime passion for the world's finest foods. She is the author of *The Traveling Soup Pot*, a collection of soup recipes from 20 countries, with a forward by the legendary Chef Michel Escoffier.

Additionally, Mary has owned and operated Mission Gourmet Cooking School, bringing chefs from all over the world to teach their style of cuisine. She presently teaches part time at home in her award-winning professional kitchen.

"Mary's extensive knowledge of food and her commitment to culinary education and excellence makes her the perfect judge for Taster's Showcase," said Kidango Executive Director Paul Miller. "We are very honored with her support and generosity of time at Taster's Showcase in helping Kidango raise much needed funds for our child development programs."

Taster's Showcase attendees will spend the afternoon enjoying food from some of the best local restaurants and caterers, sipping fine wines and other beverages, and enjoying the fun of a live auction, silent auction, and a drawing, all to raise funds for Kidango's mission of inspiring children, empowering families, and building strong communities.

A wide variety of food and beverage categories will be represented at Taster's Showcase, from vegetarian entrees to gelato desserts and coffee to red wine. In addition to Mary Chamberlin, other culinary experts will serve as judges as well, reviewing and awarding prizes to participants' food and table presentations.

Taster's Showcase is on Sunday, April 17th at the Marriott Fremont, located at 46100 Landing Parkway, just off highway 880. Doors will open at 1:00 p.m. and the festivities will continue until 4:00 p.m.

This year, you too can support Kidango's work by purchasing event tickets, making an in-kind donation for the auctions/drawing or being an event sponsor. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$45 at the door.

Advance tickets can be purchased on-line at www.tastersshowcase.org , calling 510-897-6913, or in person or by mail at:

Kidango Administrative Office
Attn: Taster's Showcase Tickets
44000 Old Warm Springs Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94538

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About Kidango

As a leader in early care and education, Kidango offers a wide variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of children 0-12 years of age and their families. Currently, Kidango operates 41 child development centers and serves more than 2,500 children and families in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Please visit the Kidango website at <http://www.kidango.org/> .

For more information on Kidango please contact Marc Baker at 510-897-6913 or at mbaker@kidango.org.