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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Overwhelmingly Supports Kidango Once Again

Fremont, CA, (April 20, 2009), Kidango, a local children's charity, announced today that their annual food and wine tasting benefit event –Taster's Showcase on **Sunday, April 19, 2009** raised \$51,320! The proceeds from this event will benefit Kidango's vital early education, early intervention, mental health, nutrition and family support programs that help 2,500 children and their families annually in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Francisco Counties.

Over 300 community members attended the event at the Marriott Fremont/Silicon Valley on Sunday April 19, 2009 to enjoy fine food, wine and beverages and to support the work of Kidango.

Twenty-four local restaurants, wineries and food distributors participated to serve up Kidango's tastiest food and wine extravaganza to date. Guests were very pleased with this year's tasty selections and raved about their favorites!

Returning supporters of Taster's Showcase, who sure pleased the crowd, included: Burrito Loco Taqueria, El Patio Original, Essany Café, Federicos Café, Gateway Fundraising, Gelato Classico, New Orleans Bill, Papillon, Supper Suppers, Sushi Tango, The Pampered Chef and The Relish Café from the W Silicon Valley Hotel. New participants this year brought flavorful and fun selections. These restaurants included: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, The Pineapple Grill at City Beach, Kaenyama Sushi and Teppanyaki, TGI Friday's from Union Landing, and The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards.

A panel of food professionals judged the participants food and table presentations. The judges were:

- 1) Deborah Carpenter - Caterer
- 2) Nolan Bourgeois - Chef - Caterer
- 3) Professor William Evans - San Jose State University
- 4) Vivian Pressmeyer - Caterer
- 5) Daniel Arais - Chef Instructor - Mission College
- 6) Steve Waterhouse (Best Presentation Judge) – Argus News Editor.

The following prizes were awarded:

Best Appetizer- The Pineapple Grill at City Beach (Smoked Salmon on Rye Bread with Caper Dill Aioli)

Best Meat Entrée – Papillon (Braised Kobe Beef with Horseradish Mashed Potatoes and String Fry Onions)

Best Seafood Entrée – Sushi Tango (Spring Tango and Tiger Eye Rolls)

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Best Poultry Entrée – Burrito Loco (Pollo Nachos)

Best Vegetarian Entrée- BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse (Spinach Artichoke Dip & Brushcetta)

Best Specialty Food – The Relish Café at the W Silicon Valley (Braised Short Ribs with Carrot Slaw and Root Beer Reduction)

Best Pasta – Federicos Café (Spinach and Ricotta Cheese Ravioli in a Pesto Creamy Sauce)

Best Salad – The Restaurant at Wente Winery (Spring Vegetable Couscous with Spiced Shrimp and Basil Pesto)

Best Soup- Essanay Café (Pear and Bleu Cheese Soup with Walnut Oil)

Best Dessert – Gelato Classico (Variety of Delicious Flavors)

Best Homemade Dish- El Patio Original (Chicken and Beef Enchiladas)

Best Presentation and Table Decoration – Papillon

The wineries and beverage companies competed for awards voted on by the attendees. Those pouring wine and special beverages on Sunday were Chouinard Vineyards, Fremont Coffee Roasting, Jamba Juice, Poetic Cellars, Ruby Hills Winery, Thomas Coyne Winery, and Vida y Vino.

This year the results of the People's Choice Wine Awards were

Red Wine

Gold Ribbon- Poetic Cellars

Silver Ribbon- Ruby Hills Winery

Bronze Ribbon- Thomas Coyne Winery

White Wine

Gold Ribbon- Chouinard Vineyards

Silver Ribbon- Ruby Hills Winery

Bronze Ribbon- Thomas Coyne Winery

Special Beverages (includes coffee, smoothies and specialty wines)

Gold Ribbon- Fremont Coffee Roasting

Silver Ribbon- Jamba Juice

Bronze Ribbon- Thomas Coyne Winery

Event Sponsors

Approximately 40 event cash sponsors donated a grand total of \$48,430! Generous Diamond, Emerald Platinum and Gold sponsors included:

- Fremont Bank Foundation
- J. Coite Construction
- Ron and Chris Rebello

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- Kaiser Permanente
- Pete Stark Foundation
- Kidango Board of Directors
- Cargill Salt Co.
- Dale Hardware
- Pacific Rim Building Services
- Qualdeval International
- Sharon and Albert Jones
- South East Bay Pediatric Medical Group
- Assemblymember Alberto Torrico
- American Dairy and Produce Co.
- U.S. Foodservice
- Fremont Firefighters Local 1689
- Robson Homes LLC
- Paul and Beth Miller
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation
- Allied Waste of Alameda County

Media sponsors included Tri-City Voice, Pat Danielson's Your Health Matters, and Fremont Minuteman Press.

Kidango would like to thank all the event sponsors, vendor participants, in-kind donors, volunteers and guests for making this year's Taster's Showcase a successful one!

Although this event is over, you can still help support Kidango's early education programs and support services. A donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please visit the Taster's Showcase web site at www.tastersshowcase.org for more information or mail a check to Kidango, 44000 Old Warm Springs Blvd.

Fremont, CA 94538, Attention: Camille Llanes.

About Kidango

Kidango began as Tri-Cities Children's Centers in 1979. At inception there were only 90 children and families being served at one center in Fremont. Today more than 3,300 children and their families benefit from the Kidango programs in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Francisco Counties. As a leader in early education and child care, this public benefit organization has a long history of working closely with the California Department of Education Child Development Division, State Preschool and Head Start programs to provide quality services for children ages 0-12.

For further information about the agency contact Kidango at 510-897-6912 or visit us on the web at www.kidango.org.

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