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MARYLAND FBLA STATE OFFICERS VOLUNTEER AT MARCH OF DIMES' SIGNATURE CHEFS EVENT

Baltimore, MD – October 28, 2008 – The Maryland FBLA State Officer team volunteered at the Maryland March of Dimes' Signature Chefs event at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott on October 28, 2008. Maryland FBLA's State Officer Advisor Janice Icenhower, Vice Chairman of the Maryland FBLA Board of Directors Alan Rzepkowski, and Chairman of the Maryland FBLA Board of Directors David Jones also volunteered and guided the state officer team.

The Signature Chefs event was held by the March of Dimes to raise money for research, education, community services, and advocacy programs. The March of Dimes is dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

The Signature Chefs event began with a VIP reception with Rahman "Rock" Harper (aka Chef Rock), the winner of Season 3 of Hell's Kitchen. Chef Rock received a \$250,000 per year head-chef position at Terra Verde, an Italian restaurant in the Green Valley Ranch resort and spa in Henderson, Nevada, near Las Vegas. Chef Rock was impressed at the professionalism demonstrated by the state officers and expressed his gratitude for the officers' helping the March of Dimes.

The rest of the evening included tasting stations featuring many top chefs from the Baltimore area, a silent auction, and a live auction. The event was highly successful with over 500 guests in attendance and over \$155,000 raised.

The Maryland FBLA state officers played an important role in the success of the event. The officers greeted guests as they arrived and were in charge of the silent auction. The silent auction consisted of over 100 items and required the officers to monitor the items and bid sheets during the auction, move the items to the area designated for pick-up after the auction ended, and distribute the items to the winners at check-out. The students were responsible for all aspects of the auction from start to finish. The March of Dimes staff was very impressed and thankful for the officers' help.

In addition, Kelli Carroll, Maryland Region IIC Vice President, volunteered to sing the National Anthem at the event. Remarkably, Ms. Carroll performed without practicing or advanced notice. She did an incredible job!

The Maryland State Officer team was honored to volunteer and support the efforts of the March of Dimes on behalf of Maryland FBLA. Maryland FBLA looks forward to continuing to strengthen their partnership with the March of Dimes.

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Three pictures are attached as follows:

1. Maryland FBLA State Officers group picture with the Signature Chefs event sign.
2. Maryland FBLA State Officers group picture with Chef Rock.
3. Kellie Carroll, Maryland Region IIC Vice President, singing the National Anthem at the event.

If you'd like more information regarding this topic, please call Scott Salopek, Maryland FBLA Secretary/Reporter at (301) 821-6649 or e-mail Scott at ssalopek@mdfbla.org.