

## **Press Information**

### **Chefs for Heroes**

#### **London's Top Chefs Cook up a Feast Fit for Our Heroes**

An Army marches on its stomach they say, and this was proved on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October when a host of the nations top chefs cooked up a five course feast at London's Guildhall to raise money for our wounded troops returning from Afghanistan.

The Chefs for Heroes gala dinner raised £65,000 for the Help for Heroes charity with a highly memorable evening of great food, quality wines and stunning entertainment.

The event was the brainchild of Paul Gayler, the chef de patron at London's premier hotel The Lanesborough on Hyde Park Corner. Paul headed a team of chefs from the UK's top hotels and restaurants including Andrew Bennett (Sheraton Park Lane), Gary Klaner (Landmark Hotel), Martyn Nail (Claridges), Paul Bates (Intercontinental, Hyde Park Corner), Simon Young (The Jumeirah Carlton Tower, Knightsbridge) and Matthew Marshall (Chamberlains Leadenhall Market).

The team were supported on the night by 28 of the nations favorite celebrity chefs including Ainsley Harriett, Antonio Carluccio, Aldo Zilli, Brian Turner, Anton Mossimann, Cyrus Todiwala, Atul Kochhar, Tristan Welch and Something for the Weekend's Simon Rimmer – and many more, all of whom acted as table hosts during the evening. The event co-organised by Chamberlains Events of Leadenhall Market, London who provided everything to make the event run from table cloths to waiters and Paul Sayer of specialist charity fundraising company Ingenious fundraising who handled the organisation and obtained some stunning auction items too.

The evening included a stunning 5 course menu with food matched wines with each course (see the website for details at [www.chefsforheroes.org](http://www.chefsforheroes.org)), a celebrity guest list including Jimmy Choo among many others and one of the most spectacular auctions of 'money can't buy' experiences. Just one example was a flight over the North Sea in an RAF VC10 refueling aircraft whilst it refuels Tornado fighters in flight!

Having cooked for Royalty and pop icons such as Madonna, Mariah Carey and the late Michael Jackson, Paul's team were more than qualified to serve up the sumptuous menu to London's glitterati in a bid to raise at least £50,000 for Help for Heroes, a Charity Paul felt compelled to help after his son Lee was shot in the leg whilst serving with the Territorial Army in Afghanistan.

Paul says, "The situation in Afghanistan is forever in our minds with casualties reported almost daily in the news. Hospitals such as Headley Court are having to deal with increasing numbers of injured servicemen returning home in need of their care. As a father of a wounded soldier, I will be forever grateful for the brilliant care Lee received at the hands of the Headley Court team."

The funds raised will go to Help for Heroes which is an independent charity that raises vitally needed funds to help the services and facilities like Headley Court support our wounded troops. Over the next year, the Charity's aim is to raise £20m to provide seven "Hero Recovery Centres" at garrison towns across the UK. These Recovery Centres will provide a home for the wounded and a much needed breathing space while they re-skill and prepare for the next phase of their lives, be that in the military or on and out into a civilian future. Thanks to Help for Heroes our boys and girls wounded in the service of their country will have a brighter future and it is why this charity was chosen to benefit from this year's Chef's event."

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For more information contact Paul Sayer at Ingenious Fundraising on 01702 300055

### **Notes to editors**

Champagne reception and canapés served in The Crypt to guests upon arrival. The chefs used live cook stations in the to create some stunning canapés 'live'.

Diners were served the following menu in The Great Hall:

- Terrine of smoked maize fed chicken and wild mushrooms
- Baked Orkney scallop with leeks, ginger and coriander
- Roasted fillet of Scotch beef, oxtail Boulanger, sauce hermitage
- Iced soufflé 'Eau de Vie Dantzig', warm Mirabelle compote
- Farmhouse Cheeses, Coffee & Friandises

## **About H4H ([www.Helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.Helpforheroes.org.uk))**

Help for Heroes (H4H) is an independent British charity, founded by Bryn and Emma Parry in October 2007 out of a desire to help members of the Armed Forces who have been injured in the course of serving their country. Help for Heroes Trading, overseen by Emma Parry, retails a wide range of tri-coloured, Help for Heroes branded merchandise to fund the Charity's operational costs so that all donations go to the wounded servicemen and women. Over one million of the Charity's tri-coloured wristbands have been sold to date and are a familiar sight on the wrists of Armed Forces personnel, civilians and celebrities alike.

Of the £25m raised to date for H4H, over £14m has been either spent or allocated to provide facilities and support services that benefit British servicemen and women injured in action. £8m is being invested in a new swimming pool and gym complex at Headley Court and is expected to open in May 2010. £3.5 million has been allocated to Combat Stress to build an expansion to its facilities allowing sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to be treated and £150,000 has been given to Battle Back, a tri-service (Army, Air Force and Navy) initiative which uses Adventurous Training and Sport in rehabilitating wounded service men and women.

In its brief history, the Charity has struck a chord with the British public and attracted some high profile backing from members of the royal family such as HRH Prince of Wales, HRH Princes William and Harry to members of the pop industry such as James Blunt, Simon Cowell and X Factor finalists who went onto release a chart topping hit "Hero" to raise funds for the Charity. It became the fastest selling charity single of the decade. Recently award winning actor and journalist, Ross Kemp was made a patron of the charity in acknowledgement of his tireless support for British servicemen and women. He takes his place alongside founder patrons Jeremy and Francie Clarkson and patrons Monty Halls, James Blunt, Ken Hames and many others.