# autism speaks Chef Gala

Friday, June 11, 2021

**The Westin Houston Medical Center** 





THE WESTIN HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER I 1709 DRYDEN ROAD FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021

6:00 PM Cocktail Reception

7:30 PM Dinner, Program & Live Auction





### 2021 SPONSORS















### **EVENT SUPPORTERS**

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### EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE

**CHAIR:** 

Joey Moppert

**HONORARY CHAIR:** 

Jim McIngvale

**MISSION HONOREES:** 

The Gray Family



#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Ashley Elks
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WITHOUT YOUR HELP THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 2021 CHEF GALA CHAIR



Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight at the 2nd Annual Autism Speaks Chef Gala Houston! We thank you, our valued guests, our Honorary Chair Mr. Jim McIngvale of Gallery Furniture, our Mission Honorees The Gray Family, and our wonderful chefs for supporting this amazing event.

Your involvement fuels our mission, to promote solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of people with autism and their families. Autism Speaks achieves this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

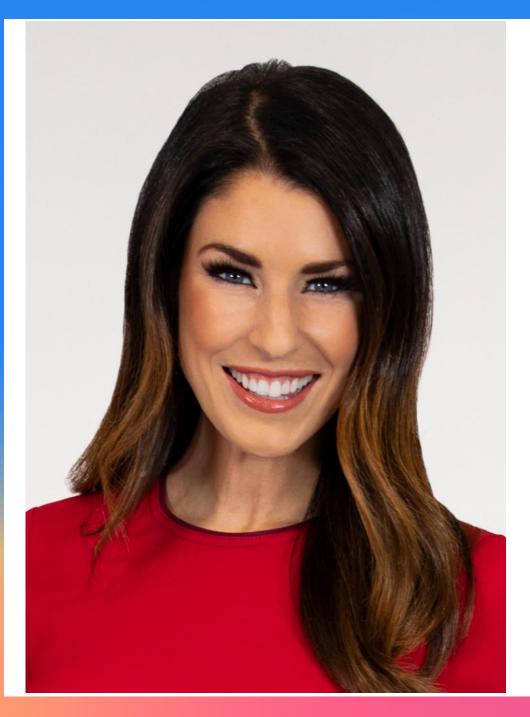
With your continued support, our gala can raise funds needed to propel the mission forward for years to come!

Cheers,
Joey Moppert
Chef Gala Houston Event Chair

### MISSION HONOREE FAMILY







### HOST CHRISTINE NOEL

Christine Noël is the co-anchor of KPRC 2 News at Midday, Noon and at 4PM. Christine joined the KPRC 2 team in early 2019, after working as an anchor in Denver, Colorado.

Christine is a native of West Michigan, and spent her early years growing up on Lake Michigan. One of four children, Christine comes from a big family and she loves spending time with them whenever possible. Christine is a graduate of Hope College, a liberal arts college located in Holland, Michigan.

An avid, lifelong runner, Christine enjoys all things outdoors – running, hiking, swimming, etc. – along with travel to new and exotic places. She's also a big country music fan that loves storytelling and interacting in her community. Christine is a proud parent to her Labradoodle, Bella.

Charities close to Christine's heart include Girls On the Run, Special Olympics, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Follow Christine Noël on social media:

Facebook @KPRC2\_Christine\_ Noël

• Twitter @ChristineNoëlTV

Instagram @ChristineNoëlTV

### **HOST**JONATHAN MARTINEZ

Jonathan Martinez is an anchor, reporter and hometown guy who joined the KPRC 2 team in August 2015.

Jonathan crossed state lines from Arkansas where he worked as the evening anchor at the NBC affiliate in Fayetteville. Prior to that, Jonathan spent several years working in Las Vegas and San Antonio. He also made a few stops in other cities across the country.

Jonathan is originally from Galveston Island and grew up in his family's restaurant business before heading off to college. He graduated with honors from Stephen F. Austin State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communications.

Over his broadcasting career, Jonathan has earned several awards for his work including numerous Texas AP awards and most recently regional Emmys.

In his spare time Jonathan enjoys golf, running, and golf! You can contact Jonathan by email at <a href="mailto:jmartinez@click2houston.com">jmartinez@click2houston.com</a>.

You can also connect with Jonathan on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> -- @kprc2Jonathan.





### AUCTIONEER TROY SALCO

Troy Scalco is a Texas Licensed Professional Auctioneer, Ringman and lead Auctioneer for All Occasion Auctioneers serving the Houston area. Troy is a member of the Texas Auctioneers Association and the National Auctioneers Association.

Born in Port Arthur Texas, Troy graduated from Northbrook High School in Spring Branch and is a Sam Houston State University alumni with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. Troy has been a Katy resident for over 30 years, and has proudly served as a Texas Peace Officer for over 25 years.

Troy's passion for auctioneering began in in high school. He grew up working on an exotic game ranch, rodeos and in livestock auctions. Throughout the years, he learned about hard work, commitment, responsibility, and about the rewards that follow.

Troy found his calling as an auctioneer when a colleague asked him to be the auctioneer at a charity event. Before he could even get off the stage that night, the Chairperson asked him if he could do it again the next year. Which led to an invitation to another event. And another. And then another....

Troy brings a level experience and inspiration to do something with his life to help others.



### **THANK YOU TO OUR CHEFS AND RESTAURANTS**

A special thanks to all the participating chefs and restaurants for donating their time and talents to make this event a night we will all remember. This event would not be possible without you!

### Lucille's

5512 La Branch St, Houston, TX 77004

### Chef Lawrence

Menu: Dill and herb croquette, topped with house made king salmon lox and lemon crème fraiche

**Website** 

Lawrence Walker's journey to the culinary profession may have been prolonged, but it was always destined. A Texas native, the kitchen served as Walker's original happy place, discovering and nurturing his love for cooking with the matriarchs of his family. While his love for food always remained central, Walker ventured into a career as a mortgage underwriter following his tenure at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana – a professional decision that later moved him to St. Louis, Missouri. Walker's fruitful career in the mortgage sector was soon met with the opportunity for transition following the industry's high-profile collapse. For Walker, the roadblock offered an opportunity to get back to his first love – food.

An initial restaurant job soon turned into the completion of culinary school at L'Etole Culinaire in St. Louis, and the opportunity to hone his culinary skills at several high-end country clubs followed. In 2015, Walker returned to his birthplace of Galveston, TX, to accept a banquet position at The San Luis Resort

a role that allowed Walker to flex his passion for high quality and high volume output. A year later, a chance meeting with Chef Chris Williams – the owner of well-refined Southern eatery, Lucille's and founder of Lucille's 1913, a non-profit dedicated to feeding Houston's impoverished elderly communities – would open the door for Walker's current role.

As the current Executive Chef of Lucille's 1913, Walker is able to combine his passion for community with his love of feeding others. Under Walker's leadership, the 1913 kitchen team has delivered nearly 70,000 meals to Houstonians in need. Alongside Williams, Walker continues to help expand the non-profit's culinary reach, while ensuring that food and community go hand-in- hand through the utilization of fresh, local ingredients and the creation of healthy, hearty meals that are nourishing to both the body and soul.



# The Westin Houston Medical Center

1709 Dryden Rd, Houston, TX 77030

### Chef Peter Cox

*Menu:* Peruvian ceviche with inca corn, citrus red onions, aji Amarillo, aioli and cilantro

&

Fois gras biscuit with jalapeno jam

Website





**Executive Chef Pete Cox** oversees the kitchen and daily culinary preparations at Terrace 54 Bar + Table as well as the property's coffee shop and casual eatery, Sip Café featuring internationally acclaimed Illy coffee and chef-driven, ready-made meals. Prior to this role, Cox served as Executive Chef of James Republic in Long Beach, CA; with Hakkasan Restaurant Group in Las Vegas, NV; Chef De Cuisine of Cut and Taste, and Sous Chef at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas, NV.

# The Phoenix on Westheimer

1915 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77098

### Chef Vu

Menu:

Chicken Curry

&

RoastedCauliflower Street Tacos

*Website* 





Vu Truong has been the proprietor of The Phoenix on Westheimer since 2006. In 2016, he started his own nonprofit, The Friends of The Phoenix, to give back to the great Houston community.

### **The Barking Pig**

2307 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77008

### Chef Kristen Powell

*Menu:* Filet slice with mashed potatoes

**Website** 





### The Bearded Baker

518 W 11th St,

Houston, TX 77008

### Chef Allan Hursig

**Menu:** Assorted Sugar Cookies, Drop Cookies & Brownies

**Website** 





Allan Hursig, the owner and head baker, created The Bearded Baker TX in June of 2016 as an in-home baking enterprise. Beginning humbly with most orders coming from friends and family, word quickly spread and orders began to multiply. With a focus on high quality and personal customer interaction, as well as a strong commitment to customer satisfaction, The Bearded Baker was able to bring in many new clients, from small celebrations to corporate contracts. Because of his reputation for fun cookies, The Bearded Baker was featured on the website Voyage Houston; on KPRC Channel 2's Houston Life; a nationally ran segment on ABC's Localish; as well as competing on an episode of Food Network's Christmas Cookie Challenge in December of 2019!

### California Pizza Kitchen

303 Memorial City Mall #610, Houston, TX 77024

### Chef Paul

Menu: The Original BBQ Chicken Chopped Salad

**Website** 



Paul McNamara has been with CPK for three plus years serving as General Manager. Paul completed training in operations locally at The University of Houston Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management where he earned a Masters Degree. He is also happy to note he is a Texas A&M alumni. In his spare time Paul is involved in the Memorial Herman Ironman race where he is an Ironman foundation participant. Paul has completed 7 Ironman Races.

Paul is passionate about working for California Pizza Kitchen. "I love working for CPK. We are a culinary driven company. The menu has a California influence with an incredible range of high-quality fresh ingredients which is incredible!"







### THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 IN-KIND DONORS









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Allyson Howard
Alpha Xi Delta Houston Alumnae Association
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Luxury Manzanillo

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Russ Fabiani

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Spec's

Stephanie Mayo

Texas Made Soap

The Bearded Baker, Allan Hursig

The Phoenix on Westheimer

The Westin Houston Medical Center

Total Wine & More

**Work Place Solutions** 

LOCAL AND CLOBAL

### Committed To Serving

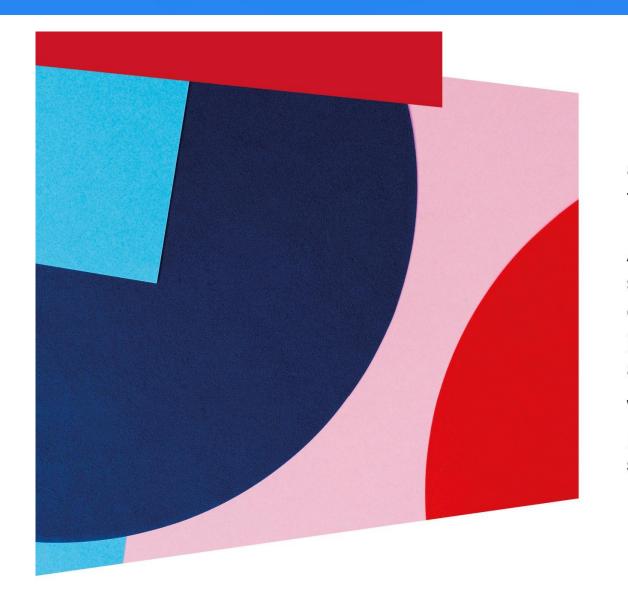
Novum is an active participant in Autism Speaks fundraising events. Through our affiliation with the charity and thanks to this Chef Gala, the 8k run and 1k walk for Autism Speaks in Houston, Novum staff, customers and suppliers have helped raise substantial funds to support this wonderful charity.

Novum Energy offers a stable and reliable product supply which includes fuel oil, distillates, metallurgical coal and a variety of custom options which we are capable of delivering efficiently.





WWW.NOVUMENERGY.COM



Reed Smith is proud to be a disability-smart organization, and we are determined to be the law firm of choice for candidates with disabilities. Our disability Business Inclusion Group, **LEADRS** (Looking for Excellence and Advancement of persons with Disabilities at Reed Smith), supports and enhances the professional and personal development of individuals with all types of disabilities—physical, mental, visible and non-visible, permanent and temporary.

We are proud to support **Autism Speaks** and its mission of promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.







THE MAC HAIK AUTOMOTIVE GROUP HAS BEEN A
PROUD SPONSOR OF THE HOUSTON AUTISM WALK
FOR THE LAST 8 YEARS

"This is one of the many charities near and dear to us." In friendship, Terry Shields, CEO, Mac Haik Automotive Group



# OAK

INVESTMENT ADVISORS, INC.

Since 1989



#### **KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS GET SPECIAL ATTENTION!**

The stylists at Snip-its Haircuts for Kids in the Houston area receive special training and certification to meet the needs of children with autism. You can also schedule a pre-visit with your child to familiarize them with the salon and our stylists.

#### HAIRCUT ADVENTURES ARE FUN IN HERE!

A Haircut Adventure at the Houston Snip-its is a positive experience for kids and parents alike! From the colorful salon, to the tablets and distractions available duing the haircut, to the Magic Box prize each kiddo gets at the end of their adventure -- we are 100% made for children and their styling needs.

#### **BOOK A SAME DAY VISIT WITH OUR ONLINE CHECK-IN**

Join our online check-in daily at Snipits.com to add your name to today's waitlist at any of our 7 Houston locations OR pick a same day preferred time slot to fit your family's needs! PRO TIP: You can check-in online an hour before the salons open each day.

SnipitsHouston | #WeSpeakKid | www.snipits.com















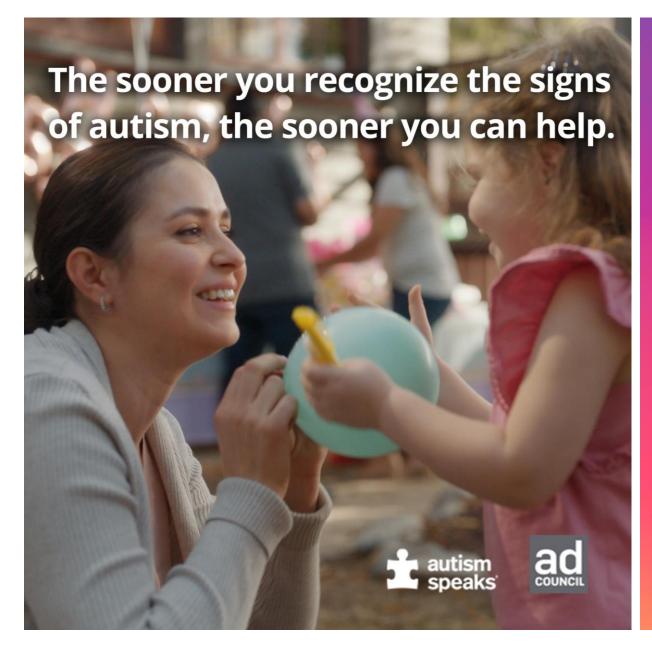




Create a kinder world for Leighton and the 1 in 54 kids with autism.

Commit now at autismspeaks.org







**OCTOBER 16, 2021** 

**HOUSTON WALK** 

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON** 

Join us! autismspeakswalk.org





### our mission

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

The sooner you recognize the signs, the sooner you can help your child.

ScreenForAutism.org







### how we help



Successfully advocated for autism insurance benefits covering

204M people in all 50 states

\$222M
in scientific grants,
resulting in additional
\$880 M
public sourced funding
focused on autism





### how we help



Provided tool kits offering critical information and support to over

1.3M families and professionals

Funded research to

lower the age
of diagnosis,
driving earlier screening
and interventions

Provided more than

460K

people

with direct assistance
by email, phone
and chat

### how we help

Increased understanding and acceptance by sharing stories with @autismspeaks social community of

2.8M



Aided over

22.6M

people through funded services and supports



Funded nearly

\$14.2M

in local grants and scholarships throughout the U.S.



Administered network of medical centers/academic facilities developing cutting edge care to more than

500K children