



Contact: Rebecca Wass
Phone: (530) 318-6991

Aug. 23, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sample the best cocktails the South Shore has to offer

"Local Bartenders Serve Cocktails for a Cause – Barton's Community Clinic"

Barton Foundation's Annual "Signature" Cocktail Contest

Thursday, Sept. 8

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Riva Grill

Come, one, come all! Must be 21-years-of age or older ... to Barton Foundation's annual Signature Cocktail Contest on Thursday, Sept. 8 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Riva Grill. This contest "kicks off" the third annual Festival of Trees and Lights, held the first weekend in December at Montbleu Resort Casino & Spa.

Local bartenders will put on their best faces, create delicious winter cocktail concoctions and add their own exciting flare. Enjoy appetizers by Riva Grill, taste specialty cocktails by the "mixologists," enjoy music from Cool Black Kettle, watch local celebrities ham it up while they vote for "Best Cocktail," and cast your own ballot for "Most Congenial Bartender." Area bartenders participating in the contest include Blue Water Bistro, Capisce Handmade Italian Cuisine and Spirits, Chart House, Edgewood Tahoe, Harrah's Hotel and Casino, Riva Grill Restaurant on The Lake and Lakeside Inn.

Last year's event drew more than 125 attendees and raised \$2,000. The proceeds from the Cocktail Contest and the Festival of Trees and Lights will help fund the \$800,000 expansion of the Clinic, which will allow for a larger waiting room, more patient exam rooms, and allow Barton to meet the growing needs of the South Lake Tahoe community.

Chip Norton from Brooks' Sports Bar at Edgewood prepared the 2010 winning cocktail, the "Nutty Mulligan," which was served at the Barton Foundation's Gala last year.

Anna Siudzik from Tep's Villa Roma was 2010's most congenial bartender with \$113 in tips, which she happily donated back to the cause. Many other bartenders got into the act and donated their tips to help fund the clinic expansion also, including Norton.

"Everyone was so generous, not only was it a really fun event, it was a true outpouring of support from our community for our community," said Kindle Craig, Executive Director of the Barton Foundation. "We are excited about this year's event and look forward to seeing new creations and kicking off our Festival of Trees and Lights – its going to be simply magical this year!"

Tickets are \$25 through Sept. 7 and \$30 at the door and can be purchased on-line at festivaloftreeslaketahoe.org or call (530) 543-5614. Admission includes a sample serving of every drink and appetizers.

-###-