



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 2, 2022**

**Leni Kuntz, VP Development**  
O: 309-451-8888, ext. 258  
C: 815-674-9498  
E: [lenikuntz@marcfirst.org](mailto:lenikuntz@marcfirst.org)

**LOCAL CHEFS PARTNER WITH MARCFIRST TO RAISE \$250,000**  
*10<sup>th</sup> Annual D’Vine Affair raises money for continued growth of pediatric therapy services*

**NORMAL, Ill.** – A D’Vine Affair for Marcfirst netted \$250,000 during the one-night event on September 29 to support the continued growth and expansion of The Gregg Chadwick Marcfirst Pediatric Therapy Center.

“We are so incredibly grateful for the support of our generous community, event sponsors, and local chefs who partnered with us, lending their talents, time, and space to create an unforgettable evening,” said Marcfirst CEO Brian Wipperman. “Thanks to our sponsors, all expenses were covered so money raised could go towards our pediatric therapy center.”

Over 500 people attended, dining on a specially prepared menu from Biaggi’s, Ancho & Agave, Epiphany Farms, Pizza Payaa, CRAFTED Trolley, Pokeworks, and Fort Jesse Cafe. Lil Beaver Brewery featured an exclusive beer, ‘Lil D’Vine’ and Kyle Yap and 80’s cover band, Decade of Decadence, provided live music. The highlight of the evening was a “Fund-A-Need” paddle raise that garnered \$129,000 in under 20 minutes.

Chef Troy Tomlinson, Biaggi’s chef and D’Vine Affair co-founder said, “The growth of this event is simply astounding! What was once a 50-person event has grown enormously every year and wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our friends, our partners, and the amazing community of chefs around us.”

A D’Vine Affair event sponsors were: Biaggi’s, Ancho & Agave, CEFCU, VisionPoint Eye Center, O’Brien Mitsubishi-Normal, The Pantagraph, Linda Kimber, Bayer Dekalb-Asgrow, Metagenics Midwest, Commerce Bank, Illinois State University, The Gingerbread House, and Afni.

###

**About Marcfirst.** *For over 65 years, Marcfirst has been at the forefront of supporting individuals through integration into our Bloomington-Normal community. At Marcfirst, we fight to break down barriers for each other and those who cannot fight for themselves and we envision a community where children, teens, and adults receive holistic support through a lifetime of meaningful services. Marcfirst operates a \$10 million annual budget providing over 1,200 services to children and adults. For more information please visit [www.marcfirst.org](http://www.marcfirst.org).*