

# Benefit: Chef cooks up Sept. 10 Hurricane Katrina fundraiser

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I've asked has been more than willing to help."

Indeed they have. Duffy came up with the idea the Tuesday after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast. He wrote a letter and e-mailed to friends of his from Charleston public relations and communications firms to ensure he got his message across for his mission.

"I'm a chef, not a writer," Duffy said. "This was so important to me that I wanted to make sure that everyone understood what it was I was trying to do. I made about 60 copies of my letter and the next day just started going door to door asking for help."

Duffy took his letter to businesses before going to work and after he got off work. "I wanted people to see a face and actually talk to them about what I was trying to do," Duffy said. "I wanted to do whatever I could to make sure they realized the importance of what it is I'm trying to accomplish."

His persistence has, so far, led to approximately 90 area restaurants and businesses agreeing to donate 10 percent of all sales made on Saturday, Sept. 10, to the Red Cross Dis-

aster Relief Fund. "I know that Saturdays are a major sales day for most restaurants and businesses so I wanted to make it a day that brought in the most sales. People go out to eat on the weekends, so why not if they're doing that anyway, it go to aid the victims," Duffy said.

Duffy said that Charleston Beer Works has agreed to donate 25 percent of their sales and Clear Channel Communications has agreed to donate air time to advertise Sept. 10 as the day that area businesses will be participating in "Bridging the Gulf to Feed Our Friends." In addition, Duffy will be featured on Charleston's new talk show, "Lowcountry Live," on Thursday, Sept. 7. Duffy will be a guest cook and will also inform viewers about how they can be a part of "Bridging the Gulf to Feed Our Friends."

Duffy stated that he doesn't have a monetary goal in mind. "For me it's not so much monetary, it's how many people are willing to get involved and the response I've received from the people here is wonderful. If each business or restaurant received at least \$500 and we get 100 businesses involved, that's \$50,000. We all wonder

## Participating restaurants

Tristan; Sunfire Grill; Cisco's; Mo Sussmans; Charleston Beer Works; Hanks; Woodlands Resort & Inn; McCrady's; Speakeasy's; Bambino's and Bambino's #2; Palmetto Parking (Charleston & Columbia (\$2 for every car on Sept. 10); Just Fresh; Tommy Condon's; Bocci's; A.W. Shucks; Avondale Station; Oak Steak House; The Grill at Charleston Place; Poogan's Porch; Fleet Landing; Cypress; Magnolia's; Blossoms; Central; Vintage; Marble Slab Creamery (James Island); Cru Cafe; Cru Catering; Crab Shack (Coosaw Creek, East Bay, Folly Beach, West Ashley, and Lexington); Mimi's Creekside; Fish; O'Hara & Flynn (downtown and Mount Pleasant); FIG; Red Drum; Zinc; Anso; Garibaldi; Centra; Chai's; Basil; Tsunami (downtown, Mount Pleasant); Yokoso-North Charleston; The Library Restaurant at Vendue Inn; 82 Queen; Vickery's (downtown and Shem Creek); Gene's Hausbrau; Sticky Fingers (downtown, Summerville, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant); 39 Rue De Jean; Coast; Slightly North of Broad; High Cotton; Old Village Post House; II Cortile Del Rae; Queen Anne's Revenge; Carolina's Restaurant; Boathouse (downtown and at Breach Inlet); Circa 1886; Grill 225; Atlanticville; Hege's; T-Bonz (downtown, Mount Pleasant, West Ashley); Amuse; The Crab Pot - McClellanville; RB's; Sette; Boulevard Diner; Mustard Seed (Mount Pleasant, Summerville, James Island); Wasabi; Hominy Grill.

what we can do and it's difficult to figure that out. I understand that. But this is something that we, as consumers don't really have to think hard about.

"If you go out on Saturday, Sept. 10 as you usually do, spend money at the businesses that are participating in this cause, you'll be helping someone. That's what I had in mind when I came up with this idea. If I had to sum up about what we're trying to do - it's about people, it's about the culture of those people and what's been taken away from them. It's about humanity and

helping."

If you'd like to get involved in "Bridging the Gulf to Feed Our Friends," call Ciaran Duffy at 534-2155 or e-mail him at ciaranduffy@aol.com.

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