



ROCKVILLE CENTRE ST. PATRICK'S PARADE COMMITTEE - 2019

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FALL KICK-OFF PARTY AT RJ DANIELS TO BENEFIT RVC ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

For the tenth year in a row, RJ Daniels, a contemporary American grille located at 279A Sunrise Highway in Rockville Centre, will be hosting the annual Fall Kick-Off Party to benefit The Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade. The Party will be 7:00 pm to 11:00 am on Saturday, September 29, 2018 and will feature a full open bar, a buffet dinner, and the live music of popular local musician Jim "Wolfie" McGrath, all for \$50, with the proceeds supporting the 23rd Annual Parade, scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2019.

In addition to a full open bar, a buffet dinner and live music, patrons will be able to enter raffles for baskets which will include, just to name a few items, baskets of cheer, and some of the Parade's official merchandise such as T-shirts, hats, bracelets, pint glasses, and car magnets.

RJ Daniels is in its tenth year of successfully serving food and drink to Rockville Centre residents and visitors from the surrounding environs. It also features a spacious outside covered bar area where much of the Party will take place. It also has the distinction of being located on the site of the Parade's founding meeting, the old Lily Flanagan's, so it is only fitting that the Parade season start at this venue.

Jim "Wolfie" McGrath is a popular local musician who frequently is featured at such local establishments as MacArthur Park and Chadwicks, as well as in Long Beach, Mineola and the Rockaways. He is a Guitarist and Singer whose extensive song list, consisting of rock and pop covers as well as Irish tunes, numbers over 220 separate songs. Newsday.com has stated that he "specializes in a wide variety of rock and pop covers, but also is known for his deft handling of tunes of Irish leaning". Wolfie has, to great acclaim, provided the musical entertainment for this event for at least the last five (5) years.

"This is the very first event of our short Parade fundraising season" said Parade Committee Vice-President Jackie Kerr. "When you mix Irish pride, good company, good

food and good music you cannot go wrong”.

“RJ Daniels has been hosting this event for a decade now”, added Parade Committee President Dennis Houdek. “Their generosity is what makes the Parade a success. This fundraiser truly reflects the values that make this ‘The Parade That Cares and Shares’.”

The Parade has as its mission financially supporting three worthy charities every year and has distributed over \$1,200,000 (\$1.2 Million) to 66 separate charities in the first 22 years of its existence. One of the three charities supported each year is a local charity, one is a national charity, and one is an Irish charity. The Parade is the **ONLY** St. Patrick’s Parade in the State of New York that (a) donates all of its net proceeds to charity; (b) donates money overseas to charities based in Ireland; and (c) donates the vast majority of its net proceeds to charities benefitting children. Each of the three (3) charities chosen by the Parade Committee this year will be introduced and will speak at the Fall Fundraiser.

The local charity chosen by the Parade Committee this year is The Opening Word, a literacy, English as a Second Language and job readiness program serving immigrant women on Long Island. Their students hail from countries around the world, many of whom are barely literate and all of whom struggle with the cost of the American dream. Despite those handicaps, one (1) in three (3) students see employment gains thanks to The Opening Word. It has branches in Wyandanch, Huntington Station and Amityville, and at all branches it works to increase the self-image of each of their extremely vulnerable students.

The national charity chosen by the Parade Committee is The HEARTest Yard, a North Carolina based charity founded in 2012 by Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen, the first tight end in NFL history with three (3) consecutive years of over 1,000 receiving yards, and his wife. The Olsens founded this charity after they discovered their son, TJ, would be born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. TJ was all of two (2) days old when he underwent his first open heart surgery. Because the Olsens were able to provide in-home nursing care for TJ, they instantly saw the need to provide this type of care to other families. Today, TJ thrives and the The HEARTest Yard has helped numerous other babies afflicted with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome beat the daunting odds and thrive as well.

The Irish charity selected by the Parade Committee is The New York Irish Center, a community center in Long Island City founded in 2005 and whose mission is to provide social and cultural services to Irish immigrants in the Tri-State area and their friends. Since its inception, The New York Irish Center has (a) launched the Gallagher Initiative in 2011, the very first study of Irish and Irish American Seniors in the U.S., whose goal was to end the isolation of the elderly Irish and which was inspired by the outrage following the 2009 death of 72 year old Irish immigrant Tony Gallagher, whose body was not discovered until a week after his death; and (b) partnered with and houses Solace House, a provider of suicide prevention and intervention services.

The Grand Marshal of the Parade will be Dr. Drew Bogner, a Rockville Centre resident and the President of Molloy College since 2000. Under Dr. Bogner’s dynamic leadership, Molloy College has transformed itself from an unheralded local college to being recognized for its excellence by nearly every national publication. Specifically, among other kudos accorded Molly, it was (a) recently named the number eighteen (18) school in the nation for “added value” by *The Wall Street Journal*, joining a list that

includes Harvard, Duke, Yale, Georgetown and Notre Dame; (b) named by *Money Magazine* as one of the Best Transformative Colleges in the nation; (c) prior to that, was named for two (2) consecutive years by *Money Magazine* as a Top Three “Best Value” national ranking, the only institution in the country to earn that honor; (d) rated a Top Ten “Best Value” college by *College Values Online*; (e) has been highly rated in the *Princeton Review*; and (f) has been highly rated in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Consistent with this meteoric rise in the national collegiate rankings and consciousness, under Dr. Bogner’s tenure Molloy has (a) seen its enrollment rise from 2,200 to approximately 4,900 students, a staggering 125% increase; (b) added numerous Masters programs and three (3) doctoral programs; (c) added two (2) residence halls, with a third slated to open in the Fall of 2019; and (d) added a trading room for the Division of Business.

Dr. Bogner serves on numerous boards and received his doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Education. He, along with the three (3) charities, will be introduced and speak at the Fall Fundraiser.

“I recommend everyone come to RJ Daniels this Saturday, where you can enjoy good food, good drink, and good music, all while supporting such worthy charities”, Houdek said.

To learn more about “The Parade that Cares and Shares”, you can visit www.rvcstpatrick.com.