



Guess who's coming to Dinner!

Hosted by **Chef Dave Martin** By Carol Toscano



On February 5th, Ronald McDonald House New York launched a new series called *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* featuring, as the series host, Celebrity Chef Dave Martin, a former final-three contestant from the first season of the hit Bravo television show *Top Chef*. The series will continue over the next year and will feature other noted chefs to cook with the kids and raise awareness for the mission of Ronald McDonald House New York and the cause of pediatric cancer.



The series aims to accomplish a number of things. According to Chef Dave, who is currently working on a line of healthy foods for kids, it was important that he partner with an organization like Ronald McDonald House New York, which has an eye to keeping the home environment as healthy as possible. He also wanted to work with an organization that spoke to him, personally, and Ronald McDonald House New York captured his heart the moment he met some of the House's young guests. The series is about good nutrition, exciting the families and encouraging them to create together in the kitchen as well as the benefits that sharing a meal together may have on the well-being of the family unit. Once those primary objectives are met,





getting the community engaged to contribute supplies, donate funds or otherwise become involved in the House in any number of ways is a key intention. “Everyone can help,” Chef Dave says. “Even without a lot of money. People can donate an hour of time, a pot, a pan or a bag of groceries. It’s what each person can do.”

The opening event in February included a *Top Chef* cook-off featuring Chef Dave in one kitchen where he prepared a classic Macaroni and Cheese (“Dave Style”) and former *Top Chef* contestant and Dave’s friend, Natural Food Chef Andrea



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Beaman, who prepared a Savory Quinoa Pilaf in another kitchen. The cook-off was judged by Francine Cohen, Editor in Chief, *Inside Food and Beverage Magazine*, Frances Grace, Publisher, *Dish du Jour Magazine*, and Jason Littrell, New York mixologist and bartender at Death and Company in New York’s East Village. The event celebrated the opening of the newly renovated Family Kitchens with two important dedications: a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new Family Kitchens and the dedication of the new Dining Room in memory of Thomas Jay Riker, Jr. who lost his battle with pediatric cancer in 1998. Thomas Riker, Sr., in a labor of love, managed the complete renovation of the Family Kitchens and Dining Room from start to finish and attended with his wife,



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner continued



Denise, to unveil the special wall plaque in their son's name. Broadway Inspirational Voices, a choral group made up of performers from shows across Broadway and off-Broadway, entertained while the Chefs and their special Sous Chef assistants (our own House kids) worked hard to prepare and serve a delicious feast, fit for a king (and kids and grownups alike!).



For more information on *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* upcoming events, please visit www.rmdh.org.

