

Tickets available for Boys & Girls Clubs Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser



Jacey Leyvas, 12, and Chloe Jure, 12, with the National Charity League Inc., try out the chocolate fountain during the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands' 22nd annual Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser in 2016, at the Mitten Building in Redlands. FILE PHOTO

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Pastries by Michelle, at the 22nd annual Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser in 2016. The annual event raises funds for the nonprofit's efforts to continue building "A Positive Place for Kids." FILE PHOTO

REDLANDS -- Looking to support a local charity while indulging in some sweet temptations?

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside may have the solution.

On Feb. 11, the nonprofit's 23rd annual Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser takes over the Mitten Building, 345 N. Fifth St., from 7 to 11 p.m. for an evening of tastings from local restaurants and bakeries, live and silent auctions, and dancing to the sounds of the B.O.E. Band.

Proceeds from the event support the nonprofit's efforts to provide a "positive place" for its members in Redlands, San Bernardino, Mentone and other surrounding communities.

"Chocolate Fantasy provides funds to support the development of our kids and also helps provide higher education scholarships for graduating club members," said Eddie Hernandez, BGC's development director.

Chocolate Fantasy typically takes place before Valentine's Day and provides BGC supporters with a "date night" option or night on the town.

Participating businesses will showcase their best goods, and attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites to take home one of three awards: Chocolatier of the Year, Restaurant of the Year, and Decorations of the Year. Vendors who have

confirmed their attendance include Jose's Mexican Food, The Mitten Building, Mill Creek Cattle Co., State Street Winery, Parliament Chocolate, Starbucks, Jersey Mike's Subs and Ritual Brewing Co.

In addition to ticket sales, which are \$90 per person, proceeds from the event also come from the sale of raffle tickets and auctions. Guests will have the chance to take home a Series Two Apple Watch, a four-night stay in New York City and two tickets to see "Hamilton" on Broadway; a five-night stay for two in Victoria, Canada; two tickets to the 2018 People's Choice Awards with red carpet viewing and limo service; four Disneyland one-day park hopper passes; and more.

"We couldn't have put on Chocolate Fantasy for 23 years without our supporters, sponsors and vendors," said P.T. McEwen, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs, in a news release. "This year we hope to continue to provide a great event for our local community and raise more funds to support kids. We hope you can celebrate with us."

To learn more about the event, which is open to guests 21 and up, go to www.begreatie.org or call 888-822-6535.