



News Release

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Contact: Ashli Bobo
BERLINE
248-593-7436
abobo@berline.com

**More than \$64,000 Raised at CRUSH Northern Michigan
2009 Wine & Food Classic to Benefit
Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan**

Troy, Mich., August 31, 2009 – More than 100 people attended the first CRUSH Northern Michigan 2009 Wine & Food Classic Aug. 15, and more than \$64,000 was raised to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, a statewide agency whose mission is to help families cope with leukemia, lymphoma, and related blood disorders. The money raised will support more than 40 Michigan families for an entire year.

Hosted at the private Boyne Falls home of Kathryn Kircher, the event offered the novice and connoisseur alike the opportunity to savor the very best food and wine while enjoying the timeless beauty and charm of Northern Michigan. Guests enjoyed a second-to-none experience, including river tours, a relaxing bonfire, bocce ball, croquet, live entertainment from Urban Folk Sweetheart, Erin Ivey, and dancing under the moonlight with DJ Mike Anthony.

"CRUSH Northern Michigan was a success in every sense of the word," said William Seklar, President and CEO of Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. "We couldn't have asked for a more picturesque setting than Kathryn Kircher's home on the Boyne River, and we're so thankful to everyone who made this great event possible. We continue to be humbled by the generosity shown by our guests and supporters, and we look forward to hosting CRUSH Northern Michigan again next year."

Lynne Symons and her son Chandler Symons III accepted the 2009 "Restaurateur Humanitarian Award" on behalf of the entire Symons family. The award recognizes individuals for their overall excellence in the food and hospitality industry, as well as their extraordinary contributions to the community.

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Other honored guests included Vicki and Tom Celani, Proprietors, Celani Family Vineyards; Jeremy Kittelson, Executive Chef, Restaurant Avondale in Vail, Colo.; and Ron Edwards, Master Sommelier.

CRUSH Northern Michigan was based off of the CRUSH Birmingham event that debuted last year, also presented by the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. This year's event is scheduled for Oct. 3 at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. For more information, visit www.crush2009.com.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of CRUSH Northern Michigan: Bowers Harbor Vineyards; Celani Family Vineyards; Elite/Leone Distributors; Empson USA; Gill's Pier; Grand Traverse Distillery; Igor Larionov Selections; Michigan Brewing; Washington Wine Limited; Weygandt-Metzler Imports.

They would also like to thank: Boyne USA; Donn Vidosh; FIJI Water; Fox Motors (Petoskey); Illuminart and Fantasee Lighting (Ypsilanti); Jenn-Air; Kathryn Kircher; Linda Hyman Photography (Clarkston); Monarch Garden and Floral Design (Petoskey); Moon Valley Furniture; Northwoods Electric; Pam and David V. Johnson; R.D. Musser III; Robert Roskam; Taylor Rental (Petoskey); The Display Group (Detroit); The Home and Garden Shop (Troy); University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center; Vidosh Landscaping.

About Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is a statewide agency helping families cope with leukemia, lymphoma and related disorders by providing information, financial assistance and emotional support. In addition, the Foundation has provided more than \$6.5 million in research dollars to Michigan's comprehensive cancer institutes. Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is headquartered in Troy, Michigan. For more information, call 1-800-825-2536 or visit www.leukemiamichigan.org.

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