

# Chippewa Valley Taste Fest features over 20 restaurants



Several sports-related silent auction items were available at the 2015 Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation's A Taste for Education event. Silent and live auctions will be a part of this year's event on March 23. Photo courtesy of DIANE BLAIN

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily

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Lions and Red Wings items featured prominently in last year's 2015 Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation's A Taste for Education event. This year's event, held on March 23 at Zuccaro Banquets and Catering, will include live and silent auctions. Photo courtesy of DIANE BLAIN

The Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation will offer a feast for the palate as well as the mind Wednesday.

A Taste for Education, the sixth annual taste fest and auction fundraiser of the Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation, will be held at 6 p.m. at Zuccaro Banquets and Catering in Chesterfield Township. DJs Paul Zarkowski and Dave Bova will provide music for the event.

Some of the many restaurants participating in the event include A Movable Feast Inc., Achatz Handmade Pie Co., BlackFinn Ameripub, Catering 2 You, Ciccarelli's Sports Bar Theater, Crews Inn, Jet's Pizza, Juan Miguel's, Leong's 21, Max & Erma's, and Chef Raymone Catering.

“Restaurants and the catering companies and the gourmet markets participate by really bringing an element to it with the great food they bring to the table, so too the wide array of auction items, which are within people’s budgets...” Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation President Timothy Tomlinson said.

Live and silent auctions will also be a part of the event.

“...We are featuring some great live auction items including a kickball game with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, a ride with the Marine Division compliments of Sheriff (Anthony) Wickersham, golf and lunch for four at the Dearborn TPC, and a trip for two to Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel with meals included,” Chippewa Valley Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain said.

A grand prize drawing will be held with the prize of a backyard party, including a Weber stainless steel grill. The prize was donated through a partnership between the foundation and Ray Wiegand’s Nursery, according to Blain.

The Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. It was designed to raise funds and encourage community and business partnerships to support education in the Chippewa Valley Schools district.

Proceeds of the event primarily benefit the foundation’s mini-grant program for teachers, but the foundation also uses a portion to fund visits from authors to elementary schools in March, Lego Robotics events and leadership conferences for high school students, according to Tomlinson. Tomlinson said the foundation hoped to raise approximately \$40,000 at the taste fest.

Last year 34 mini-grants were awarded, although approximately 50 teachers applied, according to Tomlinson. Teachers apply for the mini-grants in the fall and awards are made in January, Tomlinson said. A committee of three administrators review the applications and make recommendations to the foundation’s board, Tomlinson said. Teachers apply for grants in many different monetary amounts, depending on the project they hope to fund, according to Tomlinson.

Cost of tickets is \$45 and tickets can be obtained in advance by contacting 586-723-2240 or online with EventBrite at [tinyurl.com/zop3X3c](http://tinyurl.com/zop3X3c).