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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

PPIE'S 11TH ANNUAL CULINARY FUNDRAISER PROVES A DINING DELIGHT FOR JUDGES AND ATTENDEES

--- **October 31, 2014**---That satisfied feeling you get after a great meal was experienced by all who attended the 11th annual "Toasts & Tastes of Fall" Culinary Competition and Fundraiser held on October 17th at Castlewood Country Club.

A benefit for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, this high energy Cocktail Party, Culinary Competition and Silent Auction features 15 culinary teams consisting of a local chef, school principal and corporate/community sponsor competing for cash prizes in three categories: "Savory" "Sweet" and "Slow."

As a showcase for local 'top chefs,' "Toasts & Tastes" has long been considered a go-to event for regional foodies. Chefs spend weeks in advance designing their creations and this year, the guests weren't disappointed. Participating chefs this year were: A Tasteful Affair, Almond's Kitchen, Blue Agave Club, Cabana Dave's, Coco Cabana, Castlewood Country Club, Eddie Pappas American Hangout, FAZ, Forno Vecchio, Nonni's, Pans on Fire, Primrose Bakery, Sweet Freedom Bake Shop, Sozo Sushi, and Valley Catering.

The wine pairings were thoughtfully constructed in advance by Jim Denham, owner of The Wine Steward, who also served as one of the three official judges. Joining him on the panel were Jim Frost, Winemaker at Auburn James Winery, and Chris Chandler, Executive Director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association.

Winning the Sweet category was Primrose Bakery, with their selection of tartlettes and cakes, including their popular princess cakes. In the Slow category, Nonni's Bistro came through with ice-smoked wild salmon. And in Savory, Eddie Papa's swept the category with Honey Hoisin Braised Short Ribs.

PPIE also came out a winner, raising \$64,000 from the event. Net proceeds benefit the foundation's programs, including the Innovative Grant Programs, offering grants directly to students and educators; and, the 2015-2016 Giving Fund, with focused giving categories of Technology and Student Support for all schools.

"The great turnout this year is a testament to the value our community places on high quality education," said Susan Hayes, PPIE Executive Director. "We want to thank our partners- parents, businesses, educators and community organizations- who help us fulfill our mission to support educational programming equitably for all students across all grade levels."

"Our students are the next generation of entrepreneurs, visionaries and employees," said Bob Miller, President of the PPIE Board of Directors. "PPIE is proud to be part of the effort supporting their ability to grow and learn in meaningful ways."

More About PPIE: *Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has worked since 1987 to enhance learning experiences for students of the Pleasanton Unified School District through a partnership of business, schools and the community. For more information about PPIE, log onto www.ppie.org.*