

SLIDE SHOW: Citymeals-On-Wheels celebrates 25 years

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Citymeals-On-Wheels, a nonprofit organization that helps feed the homebound and elderly, celebrated its 25th anniversary this week with a tribute to its late founder, James Beard.

More than 40 of the restaurant industry's most acclaimed chefs participated in the event Monday night in New York, preparing a series of dishes for the more than 1,000 attendees to sample. Called "Silver Spoons: 25 Years of Chefs & Celebrations," the gala raised \$700,000, which will go toward the preparation and delivery of nutritious meals.

Chefs who participated in this year's event included Jody Adams of Rialto in Cambridge, Mass.; Daniel Boulud of restaurant Daniel in New York; Larry Forgione of An American Place in St. Louis; Ed Brown of Ed's Chowder House in New York; Alfred Portale of Gotham Bar & Grill in New York; Wolfgang Puck of Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group in Los Angeles; and Bradley Ogden of Bradley Ogden at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Nick Valenti, chief executive of the Patina Restaurant Group, served as the evening's grand host.

"To create an extraordinary meal, you need the right ingredients and a good measure of talent," said Marcia Stein, Citymeals' executive director. "For 25 years, the world's most acclaimed chefs have volunteered to help us raise enough money to deliver an additional 3 million meals to the doors of New York's frail aged at times when they would otherwise be hungry and alone."

She added: "James Beard's memory lives on in the inspired cooking of these chefs and his loving concern for vulnerable elderly New Yorkers is his enduring legacy."

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Wolfgang Puck of Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group in Los Angeles



Melissa Kelly of Primo in Rockland, Maine



Jimmy Schmidt of Rattlesnake in Detroit and Morgan's in the Desert La Quinta, Calif.



Larry Forgione of An American Place in St. Louis



Ed Brown of Ed's Chowder House in New York



Bradley Ogden of Bradley Ogden at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas