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PRESS RELEASE

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It's the Return of the Mac with the SMART Local 33 Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown

Stop by for a third helping to benefit W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, providing service dogs for children with disabilities

CLEVELAND – The SMART Local 33 Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown, founded by Cleveland native Sera Nelson, benefits local charity Working Animals Giving Service for Kids (W.A.G.S. 4 Kids). It's back for the third year to bring even more cheesy, gooey fun to Cleveland on **Saturday, February 23 from noon-3:30 p.m. at Cleveland Public Auditorium** (500 Lakeside Ave. E., Cleveland, OH 44114).

Ticket sales start November 27, 2018. A limited number of VIP tickets will be released. VIP tickets are \$50/individual and include expedited entry throughout the event, tastes from all of the participating vendors, two non-boozy beverage tickets and access to a VIP private seating and bar area. General admission tickets are \$30/individual and include entry into the fest, tastes from each of the participating vendors and two non-boozy beverage tickets. Children under 5 are free.

In celebration of #GivingTuesday and for mac 'n' cheese fanatics looking to save some "cheddar," W.A.G.S. 4 Kids would like to give back to you for your kindness in giving to us with an exclusive #GivingTuesday deal. The discount code "GIVING" takes a \$5 discount off your tickets, and is only valid on #GivingTuesday, November 27, 2018. Tickets can be found exclusively online at: MacNCheeseThrowdown.com/Tickets.

One-hundred percent of the event proceeds directly benefit W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, an organization that trains and provides mobility and autism service dogs exclusively for children throughout 22 counties of northeast and central Ohio. The service dogs are trained by inmates in the Step By Step Training Programs at Grafton Correctional Institution and Mansfield Correctional Institution. The 2017 and 2018 events were sold-out successes, raising more than \$120,000 for W.A.G.S. 4 Kids' programs and children, meaning that more service dogs can be trained and placed with the local children who need them. This event is more than mac 'n' cheese, it's community and endless pasta-bilities for the children W.A.G.S. 4 Kids serves.

Applications are still being accepted for competitors in this year's event. The event brings together a who's-who of Cleveland for the tastiest food fight and only Mac 'n' Cheese festival in Cleveland. Thirty of the Cleveland-area's top food trucks and restaurants will dream up their best cheesy creation and go head-to-head in two categories: "Classic Mac" and "Modern Mac." Ultimately, YOU decide which "grate" recipe and restaurant will come out on top as "Best Mac in Cleveland!"

Current participants include returning champions Metropolitan at the 9, as well as Café Avalaun, Matteo's Casual Italian, Battery Park Pub, Sol and Cocky's Bagels. To quench your thirst from sampling delicious mac 'n' cheese, beverages will be provided by Distillata Water, The Coca-Cola Company, Rheingeist Brewery and Tito's Handmade Vodka. Additional vendors will be announced on the Mac 'N' Cheese Throwdown website (MacNCheeseThrowdown.com) as they are confirmed.

Previous events have sold out – get your tickets in advance! There's no better way to spend a cold winter's day than tasting bottomless ooey, gooey and cheesy mac 'n' cheese. For questions, contact Sera Nelson at 216-586-5853 ext. 2 or email sera@wags4kids.com. For more information, visit MacAndCheeseThrowdown.com. To learn more about W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, visit www.Wags4Kids.org.

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W.A.G.S. 4 Kids
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Working Animals
Giving Service *for kids*

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