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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 15, 2017

The SMART Local Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown - THE MAC IS BACK!

to Benefit W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Providing Service Dogs to Local Children with Disabilities



The SMART Local Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown is coming back to Cleveland for a second year.

The throwdown, founded by Cleveland native Sera Nelson, in benefit to local charity Working Animals Giving Service for Kids (W.A.G.S. 4 Kids) will take place on **Feb. 17, 2018 from noon to 3:30pm at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland**. The 2017 event was a savory success - a sell out of 1,500 Mac 'n' Cheese lovers and raising over \$50,000 to provide mobility service and autism service animals, exclusively to meet the specific needs of children with disabilities in Northeast & Central Ohio; housed and trained by the inmates of the ODRC at Grafton Correctional Institution and Mansfield Correctional Institution.

Applications for competitors are still being accepted for this year's event. Last year's competition boasted twenty of Cleveland's top restaurants including Driftwood Restaurants and Catering; The Greenhouse Tavern; Rocky River Wine Bar; Melt; Pier W; Punchbowl Social Club; The Southside; Tap House; Trentina; Willoughby Brewing Co.; and Wild Eagle Saloon.

Metropolitan at the 9 swept both Judge's Choice and People's Choice, taking top honors in both categories with Southside, Wild Eagle Saloon, Deagan's and Two Bucks taking second and third.

In order to showcase the city's torrid fanaticism with mac 'n' cheese, The SMART Local Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown brings together a who's-who of Cleveland for the tastiest food fight and only Mac 'n' Cheese Festival in Cleveland. 2018 will see The SMART Local Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown upping the ante - as now 30 of Cleveland's finest local chef's throw down and serve up delicious Mac 'n' Cheese specials all day long for the ultimate title in comfort food. Competition this year will take place in categories for "Best Classic Mac" as well as "Best Modern Mac" where anything goes!

Three local celebrity judges and YOU will decide who ultimately gets crowned Cleveland's "Best Mac & Cheese" at [The Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown](#), The Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown celebrates the rise of the Cleveland food scene, and all things ooey, gooey, and cheesy. We will ratchet up the Cheese factor with music from a Cheesy DJ, cheap booze from 10 local providers (beer and cocktail specials) and a bunch of other stuff...

Tickets are now on sale exclusively online at www.MacNCheeseThrowdown.com/Tickets

- \$65 for VIP Access/30 tastes
- \$40 for 20 tastes
- \$25 for 10 tastes
- Drink Tickets will be available at the event (We Check ID's) - Beer, Cocktails, & Non-Alcoholic Beverages.

The 2017 Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown sold out 8 days early.

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