

The Mather Culinary Team Wins "Iron Chef" Competition

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The Mather Sous Chef Chivo Montero, Executive Chef Chip Fegert and Mary Leary, President and CEO, Mather LifeWays, celebrate winning the "Iron Chef" competition at McCormick Place. Evanston, IL. (November 10, 2009) – The Mather culinary team of Executive Chef Chip Fegert and Sous Chef Chivo Montero has only been on the job for a short time, but their food preparation expertise is already being recognized nationally. The cooking duo was crowned winner of the "Iron Chef" competition at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) Chef Challenge 2009 that took place this week at Chicago's McCormick Place.

"We are extremely proud of this honor because it exemplifies the high level of food quality and dining creativity that we offer every day to residents of The Mather," said Mary Leary, President and CEO, Mather LifeWays. "Our culinary team was up against some very tough competition."

Modeled after the Food Network's "Iron Chef America," the AAHSA Chef Challenge featured professional chefs from AAHSA member communities across the country, using a secret ingredient and racing against the clock to create the tastiest and most creative dishes as selected by a panel of judges representing a cross-section of senior

living communities, older adults, and culinary experts. The entire event occurred on the exhibit hall floor, under the watchful eyes of not only the judges but also thousands of AAHSA Annual Meeting attendees.

Executive Chef Chip Fegert and Sous Chef Chivo Montero are part of the culinary team at The Mather, the Chicago area's newest senior living residence, located in Evanston, IL.

"Taking top honors in the competition is a great tribute," said Executive Chef Chip Fegert. "We can't wait to share the excitement, and some of the winning dishes, with residents of The Mather."

Using chocolate as the surprise ingredient the chefs from The Mather created a three course meal. For starters, they served a cinnamon-encrusted Tile fish served over an angel-hair pasta cake with a chocolate-citrus Ponzu sauce and a tall glass of hot chocolate topped with whipped cream. For the main course they prepared fennel-encrusted pork tenderloin served on a bed of white chocolate mashed potatoes and spinach topped with chocolate-dipped bacon. And for dessert they served a variation of The Mather's signature crème brûlée French toast with caramelized chocolate bananas.

The Mather features seven dining venues and lounges, including rooftop dining with views of downtown Evanston, Lake Michigan and Chicago's skyline; 24-hour concierge service; and "plant-your-own" garden plots as part of nearly two acres of lush gardens. As a Continuing Care Retirement Community, The Mather will also offer onsite health care, should residents ever need it. It is the latest addition to a family of senior living residences created by Mather LifeWays that enable older adults to Age Well.

The Mather was recently named the 2009 High-Rise Masonry Construction Project of the Year by Masonry Construction Magazine, representing the "best of the best" in masonry construction across the country. Last year, The Mather was named the nation's "Best Proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community" by the National Active Retirement Association.

"Connections," The Mather sales office, is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (847) 492.7400 or visit www.thematherevanston.com.

About Mather LifeWays

Based in Evanston, Illinois, Mather LifeWays enhances the lives of older adults by creating Ways to Age Well.SM Founded in 1941 by entrepreneur and humanitarian Alonzo Mather, Mather LifeWays is a unique not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing a continuum of living and care; making neighborhoods better places for older adults to live, work, learn, contribute, and play; and identifying, implementing, and sharing best practices for wellness, workforce issues, memory care support, and empowering caregivers. To learn more about our senior residences, community initiatives and Institute on Aging, please call (847) 492.7500 or find your way to www.matherlifeways.com.

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