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RECIPE FOR SUCCESS SALUTES HOUSTON'S MOST STYLISH MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS AS THEY DRESS FOR DINNER

"Fashion fades. Style is eternal." – Yves Saint-Laurent

Dateline Thursday, May 3. Houston. Last night was the wildly successful inaugural of "Dress for Dinner: The Fashion Gene Award," a tribute to Mother's Day that celebrates the delights of family and fashion while raising money for Recipe for Success Foundation. Second in this year's triple play of fantastically fashionable *Dress for Dinner* events, co-chairs, Yvonne Cormier and Claire Cormier Thielke, devised the new award to salute impeccable family style that transcends generations. With nearly \$10,000 in proceeds from the evening added to Recipe for Success Foundation coffers, it was the most successful Dress for Dinner event in three years, and plans are already afoot with last night's host, high-fashion retailer Tootsies, for the 2013 awards, with celebrity hairdresser, Ceron, as the chair.

A woman is many things: mother, daughter, trendsetter, innovator.

The 2012 Dress for Dinner: Fashion Gene Award Honorees were—Susan & Annie Criner, Mary & Kelli Kickerillo, Chris LaFollette & Lauren Morris, Nancy & Lauren Levicki, Karen & Katy Mayell, Judy & Jessica Nyquist, Roz & Crystin Pactor, Lauren & Evan Rottet, Vicki Rizzo & Mauri Oliver, Candice & Caroline Schiller and Anita & Joy Smith. Earlier in the week, the ladies were memorialized in a portrait by Simon Gentry of Photobooth on Montrose and then allowed to roam the store to select their favorite Tootsies fashions to wear down the runway. It was a fitting tribute to their confident personal styles as looks ranged from casual to the divine.

The loving audience of 250 fans was filled with husbands, boyfriends, family and friends offering up non-stop applause as their favorite mothers and daughters pirouetted and posed to the narration of CultureMap editor Clifford Pugh, who shared insights to their style secrets. To round out the evenings' fashion presentation, Neal Hamil models showed off the season's most coveted trends garnished with jewels from The Julie Collection. Armando's and Pondicheri provided the nosh, and Slim Rita poured their signature skinny margaritas, but nothing distracted guests from the shopping frenzy that followed the show, fueled in part by the most popular party favor—a one-night only \$25 Tootsies gift card.

To complete the 2011/12 season planned by chairs Yvonne Cormier and Claire Cormier Thielke, on June 20th, Neiman Marcus will host Dress for Dinner "Spring into Summer with

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special guest Ken Downing"—a sure-to-be stunning fashion show and a delectable dinner following at Neiman's own restaurant, Mariposa, featuring the distinguished Chef Barbara McKnight. Tickets are \$50 for fashion show and reception, and an additional \$300 for Dinner with Fashion Guru Ken Downing. 100% of ticket sales benefit RFS programming.

For event tickets or more information, see www.recipe4success.org Events: Dress for Dinner, or call Lauren Ballard at 713-520-0443.

About Recipe for Success Foundation

Recipe for Success Foundation's *Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education*™ has taught over 16,000 Houston elementary children how to grow, harvest, and cook their own healthy food. A growing list of 80 high-profile Houston chefs volunteer their time to help. The only initiative in the country of it's scope, the RFS *Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education*™ program introduces children to the entire cycle of food along with taste and flavor combinations, techniques, and skills that will serve them for a lifetime, and empowers them to prepare healthy meals and snacks for themselves.

After just six years the Foundation's efforts are reaping big rewards. Parents report that their kids are now cooking at home, turning away from foods they have learned are unhealthy, and they display a solid awareness of what healthy eating is all about. Children are surprising themselves by trying, and even liking, vegetables that they would never touch before. And teachers are reporting improved behavior and attention spans in class.

Planned Expansion for Recipe for Success in 2012

In 2012 The Foundation is poised to answer demands from over 200 schools and districts across the country waiting to implement its signature programming. The national deployment of RFS *Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education*™ is now in the final pilot stage. With S2P Pilot Phase II, RFS is conducting an e-learning S2P Instructor Training and Certification program for teachers at five appointed S2P Affiliate locations. Applications for S2P Affiliate Licenses and Instructor Training will be available nationwide later in 2012. *Eat It! Food Adventures*™, a kid's cookbook/adventure story is scheduled for spring 2012 release and television show of the same name is in pre-production with Houston PBS in preparation for national syndication. The Recipe for Success team is putting the finishing touches on Hope Farms™, an urban agriculture project. Hope Farms will support on-site markets and a rolling green market to deliver affordable produce for neighborhoods marooned in "food deserts," job opportunities for urban youth and market growing business incubation opportunities.##

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