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Local restaurants invited to fight world water crisis

Community organizations unite for first Indianapolis UNICEF Tap Project event

INDIANAPOLIS- With nearly 900 million people worldwide lacking access to safe drinking water, overcoming the water crisis is a daunting task. Central Indiana restaurants have the opportunity to help raise funds for this effort in a creative way.

From Nov. 5-14, participating central Indiana restaurants will ask if dining customers would be willing to pay \$1 or more for the tap water that they typically enjoy for free. These funds will go to the UNICEF Tap Project, which for \$1 can provide a child with safe water for 40 days.

This initiative coincides with the 15th annual Spirit & Place Festival, highlighting this year's theme, Food for Thought. The Indiana Restaurant Association, Café Patachou and Congregation Beth-El Zedeck are partnering with Spirit & Place on the UNICEF Tap Project, marking the first time this program has taken place in Indianapolis.

“Spirit & Place is always interested in creating a community service project related to the year's theme,” said Pam Blevins Hinkle, director, Spirit & Place. “The UNICEF Tap Project fits perfectly with the focus on Food for Thought, helping our community come together— not only to enjoy our local food establishments, but also to make a positive difference in our world.”

Restaurants interested in participating should contact Debbie Scott, vice president of operations for the Indiana Restaurant Association, at DScott@lmvconsulting.com. More information about the UNICEF Tap Project is available at www.tapproject.org.

About the UNICEF Tap Project

Growing from just 300 New York City restaurants in 2007 to thousands across the country today, the UNICEF Tap Project has quickly become a powerful national movement. Currently, UNICEF provides access to safe water and sanitation facilities in more than 100 countries, and is working with its partners to reduce the number of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 50% by 2015.

The 15th annual Spirit & Place Festival is Friday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 14. For more information on festival events and ticket information, visit www.spiritandplace.org.

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The Spirit & Place Festival stimulates conversation, collaboration, community building and action through collaboration among arts, religious, and civic organizations. Spirit & Place is a collaborative community project managed by The Polis Center, part of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Major financial contributors include Lilly Endowment Inc.; Wishard Health Services, Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; the Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of CICF; Eli Lilly and Company; IUPUI/IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; and the University of Indianapolis, as well as more than 200 other community partners and donors. For a free festival magazine or more information, call The Polis Center at (317) 274-2455 or visit www.spiritandplace.org. This year's Festival takes place November 5-14, 2010.