

Mike and Eric's Opens Their Doors To Benefit Interfaith Shelter

On Saturday, April 2nd, the dining room at Mike and Eric's Front Street Restaurant and Bar was buzzing. It was a sold out crowd for an Australian Wine Dinner to benefit Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS). Owner Mike Whittington approached the shelter with his idea of opening their doors to shelter supporters in an effort to help raise money for the organization. They kicked off the donations by pledging 25% of the event's proceeds to the shelter.

When asked why they were offering to host the event, Mr. Whittington said, "Mike and Eric's cares deeply about the issues facing our community. The homeless issue is especially important as it is largely an invisible problem, so many do not believe it exists. We wanted to raise awareness and to support an organization which we feel contributes a positive avenue toward resolving the problems facing our significant homeless population."

Attendees were treated to passed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails upon arrival, with TIS board member and local musician Jayme D providing musical entertainment. TIS Board President Jack Harrald and Executive Director Julie Lowe provided a shelter update, including the exciting news that the night of the event happened to be the first night one of the shelter's guest families, a father and his 9-year-old son, would be spending in their own apartment. Guests then sat down to a four-course meal designed specifically for the event. Each course was paired with an Australian wine.



Mr. Harrald said, "This was a wonderful way to celebrate TIS and raise much needed funds for the work we do, while showcasing an amazing local restaurant. Well done, Mike and Eric!"

"Mike and Eric's earnest desire to help TIS provide shelter and transitional housing to our neighbors in need is admirable," adds Ms. Lowe. "We are so grateful to all our supporters who came to the event. Everyone asked, "When can

we do this again?" Look for another event like this in the fall... I can hardly wait!"

Talbot Interfaith Shelter is a non-profit organization based in Talbot County, Maryland. They are dedicated to providing safe, temporary shelter to men, women and children who lack adequate housing, and to raising awareness of the issues of homelessness in our community.

The organization currently runs two shelter programs. The first is a home at Easton's Promise (107 Goldsborough Street in Easton), which can provide temporary shelter for up to 15 guests at a time, and which currently houses six adults and five children. They also run an off-site transitional housing program, through which the shelter provides monitoring and assistance as families work towards regaining full financial independence.

To make reservations at Mike and Eric's call 410-745-8380, or visit them online at www.mikeandericfrontstreet.com.

To find out more about Talbot Interfaith Shelter and how you can help, visit talbotinterfaithshelter.org.