

Local Eatery Aids Hurricane Victims with Salute to New Orleans Cuisine L'Etoile, Farmer's Market and Mercy Ships bring hope and healing to Gulf Coast

Garden Valley, Texas September 23, 2005 -- Do lunch at L'Etoile Saturdays this fall ... New Orleans style. L'Etoile owners Traci Miller & Chef Tory Miller are partnering with area farmers to serve up New Orleans style Jambalaya. Proceeds will benefit the Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina through the relief efforts of global charity, Mercy Ships.

L'Etoile Restaurant will be serving Jambalaya, a Spanish/Creole dish, from 10 am until 1 pm each Farmer's Market Saturday through November 5th. A minimum donation of 5 dollars will be collected and Ms. Miller and Chef Tory have committed 100% of the proceeds to Mercy Ships Hurricane Katrina Response. Donations beyond the minimum will be gladly accepted. On the first Saturday alone Madison area patrons and L'Etoile donated \$1,173.00 to Mercy Ships relief efforts. Ms. Miller and Chef Tory hope to raise at least \$10,000 for Katrina relief by early November.

The two story restaurant, with a fine dining room overlooking Capitol Square and a café at street level, was established in 1976. For nearly three decades L'Etoile has been a Madison area trendsetter with the menu changing seasonally to match the produce offerings of small, Wisconsin family farms. Now, they're doing even more, by supporting a very different group of families - storm survivors along the Gulf Coast.

Ms. Miller's no stranger to the kind of destruction and suffering wrought by natural disasters like Katrina. For more than a year she served as a pharmacist aboard the Mercy Ships floating hospital *Anastasis* in West Africa. The Mercy Ship vessel *Caribbean Mercy* is currently docked in the Mobile area and is serving as a command center and base of operations for Mercy Ships relief efforts in the region. As of this writing Mercy Ships volunteers from 5 states and Canada are at work in the area.

Mercy Ships has performed more than 2 million services, with a value of \$250 million US and impacted over 2.5 million lives. Some of the more notable statistics include: treating more than 300,000 people in village medical clinics, performing 18,000 surgeries, 110,000 dental treatments and completing close to 350 construction and agriculture projects, including schools, clinics, orphanages and water wells. Each year more than 2,400 career and short-term volunteers serve with mercy Ships. The growing fleet of hospital ships has visited more than 500 ports in over 50 developing nations as well as 17 developed nations.

Still photos, audio and video available upon request. For more information please contact: Mike Osborne, Media Liason, Mercy Ships. Phone: 903-939-7649 E-mail: osbornem@mercyships.org

In the January 19, 2006 issue of the Isthmus, Terese Allen wrote in an article about the breakfast fundraiser for the Dane County Farmers Market that "the guest chef will be Tory Miller ... **The Millers are proving to be as dedicated to sustainable agriculture as their predecessor - and as committed to the public good.** Last fall, for example, they **raised money for hurricane relief ... more than \$5,600 went to Mercy Ships International.** The Winter Market breakfast [fundraiser]... supports educational and charitable initiatives like the Farm Fresh Atlas, food pantry donations and free transportation for seniors to the market."