

Chefs for Equality



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION™

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

CHEFSFOREQUALITY.ORG



ABOUT CHEFS FOR EQUALITY

Chefs for Equality brings together the capital region's top chefs, pastry chefs and mixologists for an evening of food, cocktails and community to benefit the fight for full LGBTQ+ equality.

The event kicks off with five chef-driven collab dinners on one night all over DC starring many of the DMV's most notable chefs. The evening begins with a cocktail reception, then attendees are seated for a multi-course dinner paired with wines from the DMV's finest purveyors and shops. Each dinner includes a curated silent auction, Chefs for Equality's signature goody bags, florals by Amaryllis Design House and other surprises.

Following the collab dinners, participating restaurants and bars in the DMV offer week-long Chefs for Equality specials and donate a portion of those sales to the HRC Foundation.

ABOUT THE HRC FOUNDATION

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. The HRC Foundation works to educate the public and provides training and model policies that alter the fundamental nature of the institutions that govern the everyday lives of LGBTQ+ people everywhere. The HRC Foundation touches every aspect of LGBTQ+ life with programs that target our most sensitive and vulnerable interactions:

- Helping with equal access to adoption and foster care
- Creating respectful and supportive school environments
- Helping healthcare providers increase LGBTQ+ competency
- Engaging in dialogue around LGBTQ+ equality in faith communities
- Helping corporate America adopt inclusive workplace policies and practices
- Leveraging our domestic work to have an international impact



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR • \$30,000 | 20 Tickets

- Presenting sponsor designation on all marketing materials
- Signage at event
- Company logo as Presenting Sponsor on website
- Item inclusion in goody bag (prefer something food related)

DIAMOND SPONSOR • \$20,000 | 10 Tickets

- Diamond sponsor designation on all marketing materials
- Signage at event
- Company logo as Diamond Sponsor on website
- Item inclusion in goody bag (prefer something food related)

EMERALD SPONSOR • \$15,000 | 6 Tickets

- Emerald sponsor designation on all marketing materials
- Signage at event
- Company logo as Emerald Sponsor on website
- Item inclusion in goody bag (prefer something food related)

RUBY SPONSOR • \$10,000 | 4 Tickets

- Ruby sponsor designation on all marketing materials
- Signage at event
- Company logo as Ruby Sponsor on website

BRONZE SPONSOR • \$5,000 | 2 Tickets

- Signage at event
- Company listing on website



OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE

GOODY BAGS

One of the most talked about features at Chefs for Equality are our curated limited-edition goody bags that are chock-full of culinary goodies; these highly sought bags are only available to guests of the event. Since the event's inception, we have always been particular about what goes into the goody bags and made a point of having those things be food and beverage related. We especially love getting locally made things in front of our attendees' eyes. The guests who attend Chefs for Equality are mostly high-income foodies who have an appreciation for the culinary world and patronize local business often. One reason our participants love being part of Chefs for Equality, aside from believing in the cause, is the business and brand recognition they receive.

Past Goody Bag donors include: 3 Stars Brewing Company, 50Hertz Tingly Foods, Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken, Atlas Brew Works, Barilla, Bluejacket Brewery, Bobo's, Burlap & Barrel, Caboose Brewing, Central Farm Markets, Chandon Sparkling Wines, Chups, City Winery, Commissary DC, Compass Coffee, DC Brau, Denizens Brewing Co. , Each Peach Market, Edible DC, Emporium, Georgetown Cupcake, Gordy's Pickle Jar, Hershey's Chocolates, House Wine, International Gourmet Foods, Jo Malone , Julius Silvert, La Colombe, Laudree, Levain Bakery, Libellula, Little Red Fox, Mary Lee's Desserts, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, Milk Bar, Momofuku, NRG Foods, Olivia Macaron, One Trick Pony Nuts, Popped Republic, Rent the Runway, River-Sea Chocolates, Rogers Collection, Route 11 Potato Chips, Salt and Sundry, Sang Vietnamese Iced Coffee, Shop Made in DC, Snacklins, SoulCycle, Spice n' Nice, St. Regis Hotel, Supra, The Coffee Bar, The Mayflower Hotel, The Ugly Mug, The Westin Washington, DC, Total Wine & More, UrbanStems, Wawa, Whisked by Jenna, Z&Z, Zoe Chocolate Co.

If you are interested in featuring your products in the Chefs for Equality Goody Bags, please contact our Goody Bag Co-Chair **Emily Friedberg** (emily@eachpeachmarket.com). For any additional assistance, please contact **Matt Eppright** (matt.eppright@hrc.org).



OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE

AUCTION

In addition to the fabulous food and libations, an extraordinary online auction will be held in October to benefit the HRC Foundation. Bidding will culminate and close on the evening of the 19th. We hope you will support this fundraising effort by donating an item (or two) to this year's Auction to highlight your business or products. The digital platform will allow us to promote the Auction for weeks and to many additional people outside of the on-site format we've used in the past. It is an excellent opportunity for you to build awareness within the community and take part in what Eater DC called Washington's 'favorite food event of the year.' For more information, contact **Nat Sanchez (nat.sanchez@hrc.org)**.

PROMOTIONAL WEEK

We have expanded Chefs for Equality so that any interested establishment can be a part of the excitement this year through a promotional week leading up to the main event. Businesses throughout the DMV can partner with Chefs for Equality by offering a special menu item with proceeds benefitting the HRC Foundation from October 19th through October 26th. The organizing committee and participants will work together to promote the entire citywide celebration to bolster visibility for the cause like never before.

We ask that this promotion be presented as a Chefs for Equality donation to the HRC Foundation and that you commit to raising at least \$300. It can be whatever you want—the more fabulous the better! That language can be framed as:

- Proceeds from the whole dish/drink will go directly to...
- At least \$1 of the dish/drink will go directly to...
- 100% of proceeds will go directly to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation

Past participants include: Bar Japonais, Bar Chinois, True Chesapeake, Hank's Oyster Bar, Frost and Flourish, Slice & Pie, Lucy, All Set Restaurant & Bar, Really Good Boxed Wine, J. Hollinger's Waterman's Chophouse, The Daily Dish, The Dish & Dram,

We are also happy to discuss other options you may have in mind as well! For more information, contact **Nat Sanchez (nat.sanchez@hrc.org)**.

STIPENDS

Is your audience the chefs?

We are currently recruiting vendors and purveyors who would be interested in helping to offset the costs for our chefs by providing stipend credits for them to procure products for their stations at the event. This concept started last year as we wanted to provide greater support to our participants who all generously donate their time, talent, and food to make this event truly spectacular. To assure a smooth process and equity amongst our participants, we ask that our stipend providers commit to a donation of at least \$5,000 or more in cash, or credit for products from their company, which will be divided amongst the chefs.

One reason our participants love being part of Chefs for Equality, aside from believing in the cause, is the business and brand recognition they receive. In addition to the ticketed guests, there are over 100 chefs, hospitality professionals, PR representatives, vendors, and both local and national media that attend the event.

If you are interested in more information about Chef Stipends, please contact **Nycci Nellis (nycci@thelistareyouonit.com)**. For any additional assistance, please contact **Matt Eppright (matt.eppright@hrc.org)**.

CHEFS FOR EQUALITY 2026 SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

SPONSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Sponsor listed as _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

I agree to be a sponsor of Chefs For Equality 2026 at the following level:

- Level Presenting Sponsor \$30,000
 Diamond Sponsor \$20,000
 Emerald Sponsor \$15,000
 Ruby/Specialty Sponsor \$10,000
 Bronze Sponsor \$5,000

Signature _____ Date _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION AND TERMS

Payment in full (check or credit card) is requested with your signed Sponsorship Agreement. All sponsorships not paid when agreement is submitted will be invoiced for the amount of sponsorship.

All payments must be completed by **Monday, October 5, 2026.**

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT

Sponsor _____

Level _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK

Please make checks payable to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and send along with your signed agreement and this form to:

Human Rights Campaign Foundation
Attn: Corporate Development, Chefs for Equality
1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

INVOICE REQUESTED

Please provide company/organization purchase order # _____ if necessary.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Complete the credit card payment information below and fax your signed agreement and this form to **Corporate Development, Chefs for Equality at 202-423-2872.**

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

Credit Card American Express Visa/MasterCard Discover

Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

All payments must be completed by **Monday, October 5, 2026.**
Visit **chefsforequality.org** for more information.

QUESTIONS

Please reach out to your HRC Corporate Team contact directly.

Justin Giaquinto justin.giaquinto@hrc.org or 202-716-1641

Ruth Bordett ruth.bordett@hrc.org or 202-807-4314

Chris Perkins chris.perkins@hrc.org or 202-216-1543

Marly Leighton-Colburn marly.leighton@hrc.org or 202-423-2899