

**PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:**

Mary Beth Burichin, Communications Director  
Child Nursery Centers, [www.cscnc.org](http://www.cscnc.org)  
104 E. Rio Grande St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719-632-1754, x28 or [mburichin@cscnc.org](mailto:mburichin@cscnc.org)

**Sizzling Jazz, Superb Food and Iron Chefs  
Kick off Holiday Season in Historic Setting**

October 16, 2008, Colorado Springs, CO... Typically the Colorado Springs Historic Day Nursery located at Rio Grande and Tejon Streets is filled with the cheerful sounds of children learning, laughing and playing. Not so on Saturday, November 8th when the board of directors and staff open the doors for a fabulous holiday fundraiser, the 14th Annual Gingerbread & Jazz Gala to be held from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Built in 1923, the building (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) is transformed into an enchanting setting where live music, fine food, and a myriad of unique activities are staged to support the 111-year-old Child Nursery Centers of Colorado Springs.

Party-goers will enjoy listening and dancing to music from the Miles Street Jazz Band, Bob Alexander & Promises, Jazz Guitarist Wayne Wilkinson, and the CS Conservatory Jazz Ensemble as they perform in different locations throughout the building. The Picnic Basket will serve its superb culinary specialties and desserts, while volunteer bartenders and celebrity guest hosts, including News Channel 13 KRDO's Evening Anchor Nina Sparano and friends, will pour tasty libations from themed bars conveniently stationed on each floor.

In the midst of these delightful diversions, four teams of iron chefs will compete to build the most magical gingerbread house ever during the Masterpiece Chef Challenge. Competing are teams from Little London Bakery, Paragon Culinary Arts School, Garden of the Gods Catering, and 1st Presbyterian Church. Once the houses are decorated to perfection, three judges step in to score the entries and award cash prizes. The judging panel includes The Famous Restaurant's Executive Chef Brian Sacks, The Center for Creative Leadership's Executive Chef, Raymond Hernandez, and Crowne Plaza Hotel's Head Bakery Chef, Lenny Helzer.

A lively raffle will also be conducted with chances to win more than fifteen major prizes, including a Motor Scooter from Apex Sports, 42" Flat Screen TV from the Sound Shop, Scottsdale Vacation Get-Away, original oil paintings by artists Terri Sanchez and Martha Mans, and an amazing hand-crafted Santa Claus set atop an exquisite two-story doll house (see attached photo)– all perfect gifts for the holiday season! Raffle tickets are being sold in advance by board members and may be procured by calling Event Chair Chris Carroll at (719) 630-4350.

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Gingerbread & Jazz Gala

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Tickets for the 14th Annual Gingerbread & Jazz Gala are \$100 per person and are available at (719) 632-1754, Ext. 28. For more information, go to [www.cscnc.org](http://www.cscnc.org). The event is made possible through the support of many generous sponsors including the Merage Foundation, The Gazette, Robbins Roofing Specialists, US Bank, Industrial Printers, ENT, Mountain View Bank, Jan-Pro, Blue Fox Photography, Wells Fargo, WalMart, and Watershed Investments.

Founded in 1897, the Child Nursery Centers now provides care and education for up to 600 children per day at five centers, 20 licensed homes, Dare to Dream Before & After School Program in four District Two Schools, and the Court Care program. The “whole child” model is used, including a literacy-rich curriculum, homework help and family support services, to ensure children are prepared to enter school and ready to succeed.

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