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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Rocco Agostino and Kids Cook to Care Pay Homage to Italy as they Create a Neapolitan dinner at the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre**

**Toronto, ON, January 4, 2012--** Kids Cook to Care (KCTC) and Rocco Agostino, Executive Chef of Pizzeria Libretto, will make and serve an Italian-inspired dinner at the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Center on January 18<sup>th</sup>. KCTC is a charity that brings together children volunteers and acclaimed chefs to create ethno-centric meals for low-income communities. The menu features a dish that is one of the most celebrated in Italian cuisines and will celebrate the flavours of Northern Italy.

Patrons of the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Center will feast on Bucatini All'amatricana, a classic and delicious pasta dish with roots in the Abruzzi region.

This one-pot dish will include guanciale, an ingredient similar to Pancetta, that used to be very hard to find outside of Italy. This dish is named for the town of Amatrice, about an hour east of Rome, considered by many Italians to be the birthplace of the best cooks on the peninsula. It is an especially popular meal in the cold winter months.

"Kids Cook to Care lets me make a difference by bringing fresh produce and quality ingredients to a population in need. The patrons we serve will taste special ingredients that make Neapolitan cuisine unique," stated



Rocco Agostino, Executive Chef, Partner, Pizzeria Libretto. “Moreover, as a parent of a young toddler I am excited to go into a kitchen where I can cook and care with kids.”

“Together with Chef Agostino, Kids Cook to Care hopes to elevate the basic dining experience of those in need so they can sit down and experience an authentic Italian meal,” stated Jill Lewis, co-founder, Kids Cook to Care. “We live in such a fast-pace time, it is important for children volunteers to gain tidbits of food lore while learning practical skill-building lessons on how to cook and present a Neapolitan meal for those who often go without a proper meal.”

Since the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Center fosters independence in its guests, after dinner Chef Rocco Agostino will offer practical tips and explain the essence of this meal thereby empowering them with the critical skills of cooking to recreate this dish at home.

### **Kids Cook to Care**

Kids Cook to Care is the brainchild of two mothers, Julie Levin, a caterer from Tokyo, and Jill Lewis, a publicist, who with her children prepared meals at a Homeless Shelter in New York City. While musing over the lack of hands-on volunteer opportunities for children during an apple-picking school field trip, Kids Cook to Care was created. This charitable organization creates innovative programs for children volunteers to show them through the creation and serving of ethnic foods to those in need they can make a difference. By bringing together the best chefs, resources and children, Kids Cook to Care provides no-fuss opportunities for child volunteers to help make a difference in high-need communities. For more information, please visit [www.kidscooktocare.com](http://www.kidscooktocare.com).

### **Rocco Agostino, Executive Chef/Partner, Pizzeria Libretto**

Executive Chef and Partner for the Libretto Restaurant Group Rocco, Agostino’s restaurants focus on simple, regional specific Italian cuisine

using local and seasonal ingredients. Pizzeria Libretto is currently the only certified Neapolitan pizzeria in Canada and Enoteca Sociale is a Roman Wine Bar, both are located in Toronto's West End. He is formerly the Chef/Owner of Silver Spoon Restaurant & his experience includes Executive Chef at Ferro Bar Cafe and studies abroad in Rome, Italy for several years. He is also a graduate



of the Stratford Chef's School. For more information, please visit [www.pizzerialibretto.com](http://www.pizzerialibretto.com).

**Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre**

The Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre is dedicated to building upon the strengths and vision of community members to improve the quality of life in the Christie Ossington community. By working in collaboration with residents, community institutions, agencies, local businesses and stakeholders, we will create a safe and healthy community. For more information, please visit <http://www.conccommunity.org>