

Chef Michael is Dancing for the Stars

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is a Nation-wide non-profit that “provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better.” Its effect has been monuments in the lives of many of our youth for the past 100 years. This program pairs a child with a caring adult mentor from the community to help enrich various aspects of their life. The children from low income families/situations that this program benefits receive time with adult role models (big brothers or big sisters) who provide economical or emotional support through visiting the kids (under supervision). Each youngster is paired with one adult who frequents the center or their home once or twice a week, taking them to the park, to get ice cream, or just to play. Erath County is one of many counties that homes a BBBS chapter.

BBBS relies heavily on community support and fundraising dollars to ensure they can continue serving children across the United States. One of the biggest fundraising events that Erath County’s BBBS puts on is a spinoff of ABC Family’s TV show, ‘Dancing with the Stars’ called “Dancing for the Stars.” This annual event hosts six couples who compete for not only the title of best dancers but also for the largest amount of fundraising dollars. To vote for a team, a patron must donate money, buy a ticket or purchase an entire sponsor table. The money raised by each couple turns into votes for them; this helps entice dancer advocates to raise funds for this incredible cause. Another way that this event brings in money is through silent auction items donated by the public. Should a couple bring in auction items, the monetary value that the item is sold for is included as votes.

Over the past five years, Sodexo has been very involved in this event. Sodexo has sponsored the event every year since 2013 with our full contributions equaling more than \$35,000. Tarleton State University’s Dining Services continues to increase their support, and this year, in 2018, our Chef, Michael Garrett, and his wife, our event/office assistant, will be one of the couples competing!

The 2018 Dancing with the Stars event will be held on November 29th in the Tarleton Ballrooms. Individual tickets are \$135 which include dinner (provided by Taste of Tarleton, Sodexo’s catering service) and an open bar.

Sodexo is thrilled to have the opportunity to impact the lives of so many children in our community.