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## **SUPERSTAR CHEF MARCUS SAMUELSSON TO BE HONORED AT THE ESTHER'S AID ANNUAL "DINNER BY THE BITE" BENEFIT IN MANHATTAN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 – TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y., Sept. 6, 2016 — Esther's Aid and Celebrity Chef Peter X. Kelly of X20 are proud to honor internationally acclaimed Chef Marcus Samuelsson on October 25, 2016 at "Dinner By The Bite," the nonprofit's fourth annual culinary benefit at the historic Riverside Church on Manhattan's Upper West Side. The evening will begin at 6pm. Guests will enjoy cocktails and small bites prepared by prominent chefs as they stroll the silent auction and Rwandan crafts table in Riverside's Assembly Hall. Plated desserts and coffee will be served during a brief awards program highlighting the work of [Esther's Aid](#) and the achievements of [Marcus Samuelsson](#). The event is open to the public. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online at [Eventbrite](#) for Esther's Aid.

An award winning chef, restaurateur and bestselling author, Marcus' achievements are unparalleled. His New York Times bestseller and James Beard award-winning memoir "Yes, Chef" chronicled his fascinating rise from a three-year old orphan to successful entrepreneur. Today his first restaurant in the heart of Harlem, Red Rooster, is among an array of restaurants he has developed around the world. The youngest chef to ever receive two three-star ratings from The New York Times, he also served as guest chef for the first State Dinner in the Obama White House. A recurring judge on the Food Network's highest rated series Chopped as well as ABC's The Taste, Marcus is the author of seven books including a new cookbook, "[Red Rooster Cookbook: The Story of Food and Hustle in Harlem,](#)" releasing October 18.

Like Esther's Aid, Marcus cares, trains and empowers by his leadership, compassion and entrepreneurship, making him a role model for young people everywhere. Esther's Aid has given thousands of young orphans and survivors of the genocide the tools to transform their lives from poverty to productive independence, enabling them to participate in Rwanda's thriving economy. Their education and skills training programs include culinary arts and catering, sewing and crafts, computer skills, and entrepreneurship. Through Esther's Aid's newest project, rescuing the victims of sex trafficking, survivors of the sex trade and at risk young women are reclaiming their lives and becoming self supporting citizens as well.

Graduates of Esther's Aid's culinary and catering programs are sought after for employment by Kigali's finest hotels. This year the organization launched the Esther's Aid Visiting Chefs Program, whereby chefs from abroad volunteer to teach culinary skills for one or two weeks at the school while also helping to raise scholarship funds for

the program. Throughout their visit, they also lend support to program initiatives that elevate Rwanda's food culture and culinary scene. International Chef [Silvia Bianco](#) from Connecticut is Esther's Aid's first visiting chef and serves as the program's Ambassador.

Founded in 1999 in New Rochelle, N.Y. by former diplomat Clare Effiong, Esther's Aid is a 501c3 organization serving the poor and needy. During a Mission trip to Rwanda in 2000, Ms. Effiong met Justus Uwayesu, one of hundreds of children living in the garbage dump in Kigali in the aftermath of the genocide. At her invitation he followed her out of the dump. Clare placed Justus with a family and paid for his education. Later, she returned to Kigali and started an orphanage, rescuing hundreds of children from the street. Justus, whose story was featured on the [front page of the New York Times](#) in October of 2014, recently completed his second year at Harvard. His humble beginnings and early success invite comparison to Marcus Samuelsson's life story.

Funded primarily by small donations from Americans, Director Clare Effiong's vision is to make Esther's Aid self sustaining. A building plan for The Esther's Aid Village of Peace created pro bono by a Colorado-based Christian engineering firm is already underway. The 2.6 acre site in Kinyinya, a ten-minute drive from Kigali, will include student dormitories and classrooms as well as an event hall for weddings and conferences, a restaurant, and the "Heavenly Bakery" (already in operation) that will help generate income to support Esther's Aid's growing programs.

Those unable to attend the annual benefit can support the organization by donating online at [Esther'sAidNetworkForGood.com](#). Or, they can mail a check payable to Esther's Aid to 271 North Avenue, Suite 205, New Rochelle, New York, 10801.

For more information, visit [www.estersaid.org](http://www.estersaid.org) and <http://www.marcussamuelsson.com/>

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