

Char-Em United Way  
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**“Toast to Literacy” -- a fun evening and a great cause**

Char-Em United Way's fifth ***Toast to Literacy Mardi Gras Party***, will be held from 7 – 10 p.m., Saturday February 10, 2017 at Castle Farms in Charlevoix.

Back this year is the popular Mardi Gras theme with decorations, music, and strolling entertainers. As always, the Toast to Literacy will include beer/wine/cider/mead tastings, food, and a silent auction.

Local caterers Pigs Eatin’ Ribs, Grey Gables Restaurant, Wineguys Catering, and Boyne City Tap Room vie for the best Soup, Savory and Sweet selection, as judged by the crowd.

Beverage tastings from Cheboygan Brewing, Petoskey Farms, Right Brain Brewery, Beards Brewery, Spare Key Winery, and Bee Well Meadery are the highlight of the evening. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.

The silent auction includes the chance to bid on: a Monet pumpkin from Boyer Glassworks; jewelry from Elizabeth Blair Fine Pearls and Belle Aquatic; gift certificates and merchandise from J. Phillips, Bearcub Outfitters, and Tom’s Mom’s Cookies; overnight stays and dining from Odawa Casino, adventures including a Tour of Mushroom Houses and Castle Farms, a guided UP snowy owl tour, Avalanche Bay, Boyne Golf, and much more.

All proceeds will benefit Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a literacy initiative sponsored by Char-Em United Way, which provides free books to children from birth to age five in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. The program currently sends books monthly to 1,400 local children.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or \$30 in advance and includes admission, food tastings, and a souvenir glass or a drink tasting ticket. For more information or to register, call 231-487-1006 or go to [www.charemunitedway.org/toast](http://www.charemunitedway.org/toast)

Sponsors for the event include: Baron Title Agency; Bickersteth, Brown and Assoc.; Bingham Insurance; Boyne City Kiwanis; Castle Farms, Charlevoix State Bank; Charlevoix Veterinary Hospital; Fletch’s, Pat O’Brien and Assoc.; Petoskey Plastics, and Wojan Window and Door.

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PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS



Guests in their Mardi Gras finery.



Selections from Crooked Vine Winery



Offerings from Petoskey Farms Winery



Joe and Lorraine Manary



Volunteers at Charlevoix Brewing Company table