



Illuminate Event Venue

South Florida nonprofit employs young adults with developmental disabilities to learn life skills at popular event venue

Illuminate Event Venue Generates Revenue to Support JAFCO & its Life-Saving Programs

Sunrise, Fla. – Illuminate Event Venue is a new, one-of-a-kind event venue operated by JAFCO, a South Florida nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide care safety and support to children and families in our community.

In addition to serving as an exciting event space, Illuminate has enabled JAFCO to expand its work helping the South Florida community by providing jobs to young adults who have developmental disabilities. These young adults are part of the JAFCO Children's Ability Center, and are learning important skills such as event set up, table setting, food storage, preparation skills, buffet set up, food presentation and cooking techniques, as well as food service sanitation procedures. They are also learning to prepare healthy meals from scratch and bake, all important life skills that can increase their level of independence in their future.

This breathtaking modern event center is complete with a pre-event bar space, grand ballroom, color-changing programmable lighting system, VIP/Bridal suite, sound and audio-visual system, state-of-the-art catering kitchen and



provides a backdrop for whatever décor theme is chosen for an event. And their signature feature is an actual "fiddler on the roof."

Illuminate is truly unique in that in addition to providing children who have developmental disabilities the opportunity to have a job, it also generates revenue to help support children and their families through JAFCO's life-saving programs. Because of this, the rental fee for Illuminate is tax deductible which is just an added benefit.

Illuminate Event Venue doubled its venue rental goal of \$50,000 in one year, putting them at more than \$100,000 raised for the children that JAFCO serves. Illuminate is the first event venue with a cause of its kind, as it donates 100% of its proceeds back to a nonprofit organization.

"There are no other event venues anywhere that allow you to have a party and change the world at the same time. When we started Illuminate, I knew it was something special, but seeing the community embrace that through hosting events has been a dream come true", says Michael Moran, a former Executive Chef who is the venue manger.

Illuminate's success can be attributed to the South Florida community embracing the concept of an event center dedicated to supporting a local nonprofit. Since opening, the venue has hosted 50 events, with many saying the reason they chose Illuminate is because it is the nicest venue in town and it provided them the opportunity to help their community.

Illuminate is available to host weddings, bar or bat mitzvahs, birthday or anniversary celebrations, non-

profit fundraising events or corporate events and business conferences for 25- 300 guests.

"We are expecting to only grow from here," said Sarah Franco, CEO of JAFCO. "Illuminate is nearly fully booked for the rest of the year, which is just amazing, most people find us on The Knot or Wedding Wire apps."

All the proceeds from the venue will help provide services to children who have developmental disabilities, those who have experienced abuse and neglect, and the trauma of a mass shooting in our community through the various JAFCO sites: the JAFCO Children's Village, JAFCO Children's Ability Center and Eagles' Haven. "When you book your event you can direct which of our sites your rental fee will benefit."

ABOUT JAFCO:

JAFCO's mission is to provide care, safety and support to children and their families within the Jewish community and beyond who are impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities...giving every child a place to belong. Visit www.jafco.org
Media Contact: Amanda Gordon agordon@boardroompr.com and Veronika Vernachio, vvernachio@boardroompr.com or 954-370-8999.

Do you like to volunteer? Email us at HawksLanding@n2co.com to shed light on one of your favorite causes!