



## FOOD ALLERGY INITIATIVE CHICAGO

*Finding a cure for  
life-threatening food allergies*

### Food Allergy Initiative (FAI) Fact Sheet 2010

Headquartered in New York, the Food Allergy Initiative is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding life-saving treatment and ultimately a cure for food allergies. Founded in 1998 by concerned parents and grandparents, FAI is the largest private source of funding for food allergy research in the United States. Funds donated to FAI are allocated to four areas: advocacy, education, clinical activities and research. Each area of focus helps food-allergic families by giving them hope, knowledge and a voice in Washington and in their community.

### FAI Chicago

Founded in 2007 by a group of dedicated parents, FAI Chicago is a local extension of the national FAI organization. FAI Chicago raises money to find a cure for food allergies and works to heighten food allergy awareness in the Chicagoland area. Since 2007, FAI Chicago has raised \$2.3 million. FAI Chicago's goal is to raise \$2 million in 2010.

### FAI Chicago 3rd Annual Benefit

Every fall, FAI Chicago holds a benefit in honor of a dedicated Chicagoland family and a prominent local chef or restaurant. In 2008, the benefit raised \$1.2 million and honored Dave and Denise Bunning, who have been pioneers in the food allergy arena for over a decade. In 2009, the benefit raised over \$1.1 million and honored Michelle and Darren Anixter, who have been dedicated advocates on behalf of the food allergy community for many years. The Third Annual Benefit for FAI Chicago will be held on **Saturday, November 13, 2010** at the beautiful River East Art Center. Guests will enjoy an elegant event where there will be an opportunity to bid on hundreds of amazing silent auction items.

### Why Support FAI Chicago?

There is no cure for food allergies and the only way to prevent a dangerous reaction is strict avoidance of the problem foods. Even the most extreme measures cannot fully protect a child from cross-contamination during meal or snack time, or from the touch of people whose hands may be contaminated. Food-allergic children and their parents worry about the mere simplicities of life that most people take for granted, like play dates and going to school, as well as defining moments like going to camp, trick or treating or the innocence of a first kiss.

The national *Centers for Disease Control (CDC)* estimates that 3 million children under the age of 18 suffer from food allergies and that from 1997-2007, the prevalence of the disease increased 18% among this age group. If food allergies continue to increase at this rapid rate, the disease will reach epidemic proportions.

### Get Involved

Researchers believe that, with greater attention, there is an excellent chance that they can find a cure within a decade and FAI is at the forefront of making that happen. Local groups, like FAI Chicago, are essential to creating a powerful national voice. With other cities following suit, national awareness of the severity and potential epidemic scope of food allergies will increase federal funding for research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies.

### Contact Us

FAI has many ways for you to get involved: Volunteer to help plan the annual FAI Chicago fundraiser each fall; join FAI Chicago's efforts to raise money to find a cure; or visit our website at [www.faiusa.org](http://www.faiusa.org) and donate today.

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