



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/21/2008**

Through April 23, 2008

## **OPEN HAND ANNOUNCES COTTON STATES INSURANCE AS PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR DINING OUT FOR LIFE**

ATLANTA---Open Hand is pleased to announce Cotton States Insurance has come aboard as Presenting Sponsor for Dining Out For Life on April 23, 2008. In addition to a generous contribution, 500 Cotton States Insurance employees and agents will support the event through a variety of promotional efforts.

“Cotton States and Open Hand share a responsibility and a commitment to serve the needs of people in our community,” said Mike Cook, chief operating officer of Cotton States Insurance. “We are honored and proud to support Dining Out for Life.”

Nearly 200 restaurants in the Atlanta metro area will participate in Dining Out For Life donating a minimum of 20 percent of food and beverage sales to Open Hand. Last year’s event raised a record \$210,000. Open Hand is hoping to surpass the \$250,000 mark in 2008.

Co-chairs of the 2008 Dining Out for Life are Linton Hopkins, chef/owner of Restaurant Eugene; Robby Kukler, a founding partner of Fifth Group Restaurants; and Kevin Rathbun, chef/owner of Rathbun’s, Kevin Rathbun Steak and Krog Bar.

Participating restaurants include popular hot spots, longtime favorites and casual eateries in neighborhoods from Alpharetta to College Park, Marietta to Decatur, and everywhere in-between.

Some of this year’s participating restaurants include Agave, Alfredo’s, Babette’s Café, Baraonda, Casa Nuova, City Grill, Ecco, FAB (French American Bistro), Food Studio, Horseradish Grill, Murphy’s, Noche, Portofino, Posh, Room at TWELVE, Shaun’s, Sotto Sotto, South City Kitchen (both locations), Strip, Taqueria Del Sol (all three locations), Tierra, Watershed, and many more. **For more information call 404-419-3333 or visit [www.projectopenhand.org](http://www.projectopenhand.org)**

Other sponsors who are generously supporting Dining Out For Life include: **Platinum Level** - AutoTrader.com, The Coca-Cola Company, Good Measure Meals™ **Gold Level** - Benevolink, Cobb County Toyota, Nordstrom, OpenTable.com, Urban Body Studios, US Foodservice **Silver Level** - ChoicePoint and Life University.

-more-

***About Open Hand:***

Commemorating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, Open Hand is the only community-based nonprofit organization providing Comprehensive Nutrition Care. Services combine healthy, home-delivered meals with nutrition education, counseling, and therapy for homebound senior citizens and individuals struggling with a chronic, critical or terminal illness. Open Hand serves the following counties: Bartow, Carroll, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Polk, Spalding, and Troup. Ninety-one percent of Open Hand's clients live at or below the federal poverty level.

***About Cotton States Insurance:***

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Cotton States Insurance has been providing quality insurance protection to the residents of the Southeast since 1941. Backed by a tradition of dependability and service, Cotton States has been helping generations of families find the insurance coverage that works best for their particular needs. Cotton States agents are located in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

###

Maizie Hale/Faye Edmundson  
Maizie Hale Public Relations  
404-261-7080  
mzh@maiziehalepr.com  
faye@maiziehalepr.com