

Applebee's opens with fund-raiser

RIDLEY TOWNSHIP — Applebee's newest eating establishment opened yesterday on MacDade Boulevard in front of Home Depot after an "invitation-only" preview Monday night.

The early-evening party was attended by hundreds to sample what Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar has to offer.

The restaurant put its best foot forward at the preview with an efficient wait staff snaking through the crowd offering delicious ribs and chicken wings. Assorted cheeses, cold cuts, fresh fruit, beef and chicken fajitas and nut brownies were on buffet tables. And since the restaurant features a full-service bar, alcoholic drinks as well as soft drinks and ice tea were plentiful.

The Rose Group, headed by founder and CEO **Henry Rose**, which owns and operates the restaurant, used the preview night as a fund-raiser for Mommy's Light Lives On Fund. Guests were asked to make a \$5 donation.

Mommy's Light is an organization that helps to keep traditions alive that were shared between mothers and their children after the mothers are deceased or in a life-threatening situation.

A brochure on the Mommy's Light Lives On Fund cites an example of the work the five-year-old organization provides for grieving children, telling about a tradition a mother had with her son and daughter of planting flowers together. Now that the mother is deceased, Mommy's Light will provide flowers and gardening supplies to the two children to plant flowers each spring until they are 18 years old.

"It helps facilitate the grieving process and keeps mommy's memory alive," said Millie Elrod, a staff member of Mommy's Light, adding that 12 children have been helped so far this year.

Laura Munts, president of Mommy's Light, said \$3,000 was raised for the organization Monday night, including \$700 in tip money donated by employees.

For more information on Mommy's Light, call (610) 725-9790.

Applebee's menu, both eat-in and take-out, features a variety of salads with chicken or shrimp toppings, appetizers that include crisp fried onion peels with a creamy horseradish dipping sauce, all-you-can-eat chips and salsa and red hot jalapeno poppers.

A variety of steak and chicken dishes, chicken and pasta combinations and burgers and sandwiches round out the menu selections along with "plentiful platters," featuring Applebee's riblets, chicken fingers, fish and chips and popcorn shrimp.

There is a kids' menu with the traditional French fries to go with chicken fingers, cheeseburgers, grilled cheese sandwiches, hot dogs and macaroni and cheese. The Dessert Lover's Lane offers cinnamon-apple crisp a la mode, fudge brownie sundaes, chocolate cake and cheesecake.

Party platters are available for take-out only, with a one-hour notice required. Call the restaurant at (610) 461-7573.

There are 1,300 Applebee's in the United States. The Rose Group owns and operates 36 restaurants, including the MacDade Boulevard establishment where **Steve Lang** is the general manager. Assistant managers are **Jason**

Boyer, Vu Tran and Vern Colbert.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

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