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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA SELECTED AS CHARITY PARTNER FOR VISIT ORLANDO'S MAGICAL DINING MONTH**

*Proceeds Shared with Local Mental Health Advocacy Nonprofit*

**ORLANDO, FL.** (August 23, 2019)—Starting today, foodies can dine with purpose as one dollar from every meal served during Visit Orlando's Magical Dining will help Lighthouse Central Florida empower children, ages birth to teen, and allow them to experience what's possible beyond vision loss.

Lighthouse will split proceeds generated by Magical Dining with another local nonprofit, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Orlando—an organization that helps raise awareness and change perceptions among teenagers about mental health and suicide prevention.

"Visit Orlando's Magical Dining is one of the most powerful ways our industry makes a difference in the community. Last year's donation topped \$250,000, so you can imagine the significant impact these funds can make," said George Aguel, president and CEO of Visit Orlando. "Along with our valuable restaurant members, we are excited to raise awareness and support for these two meaningful causes."

"At Lighthouse certified professionals work to ensure that babies and young children, who live with vision loss, remain on track to meet key development goals and keep pace with their sighted peers," said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida.

"Proceeds from Visit Orlando's Magical Dining will enable Lighthouse to expand its early intervention programs for children so they can adapt, integrate and enjoy active, productive lives. We are humbled and elated to share this honor with NAMI Greater Orlando."

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Visit Orlando's Magical Dining begins today and runs through September 30th. More than 120 fine dining restaurants around Central Florida are offering a \$35 three-course, prix fixe dinner menu.

A full list of participating restaurant partners can be found at <https://www.visitorlando.com/en/magical-dining> menus, including special options for vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free diets, and the ability to make dining reservations directly through OpenTable.

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### **ABOUT ORLANDO DINING**

From internationally renowned chefs to home-grown venues, Orlando is a destination where the culinary possibilities are both fresh and seemingly endless. Theme park restaurants keep Central Florida on the map with award-winning dining, and independent restaurateurs bring fresh concepts to the table. Whether locally owned or part of expanding franchises, many of the destination's newest restaurants mirror the national trends: American cuisine, farm-friendly menus and simple food with regional accents. Nationally, Orlando has emerged as a prominent dining destination, and continues to grow in both quantity and quality of flavors.

### **ABOUT VISIT ORLANDO**

Visit Orlando is the official tourism association for the most visited destination in the United States, with representation in more than a dozen countries around the world. Visit Orlando, together with its 1,200 member organizations, represents the area's leading industry.