



Children enjoy pizza at a previous Pizza Wars fundraiser for the District 99 Education Foundation. The event returns Jan. 19 to Downers Grove South High School.

Photo provided

PIZZA WARS

Fundraiser returns to benefit D-99 Education Foundation

PAGE 3

D-99 fundraiser to dish up top area pizza



Photo provided

A youngster enjoys a slice of pizza at a previous Pizza Wars fundraiser for the Downers Grove District 99 Education Foundation. This year's event will feature 10 shops from around the area competing Jan. 19 at Downers Grove South High School.

By **NATHAN LURZ**
nlurz@shawmedia.com

DOWNERS GROVE – Members of the Community High School District 99 community soon will help decide the best pizza in town – and raise money for their schools along the way.

The fourth annual Pizza Wars event on Jan. 19, hosted by the District 99 Education Foundation, will feature cheesy pies from 10 vendors in Downers Grove, Westmont and Woodridge.

Foundation Executive Director Denise Callerman said the fundraiser wouldn't be possible without the help and support of these businesses.

"The pizza vendors themselves are making a considerable investment back into their community and school system," she said. "They have to make the pizzas, have staff there to provide the pizzas. ... We're very appreciative of their support."

If you go

- **WHAT:** District 99 Education Foundation Pizza Wars fundraiser
- **WHEN:** 5:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 19
- **WHERE:** Downers Grove South High School, 1436 Norfolk St., Downers Grove
- **COST:** \$10 per person in advance, \$15 at the door
- **INFO:** pizzawars.org

Participants

- **DOWNERS GROVE:** John & Eddie's, Lou Malnati's, Home Run Inn, Tortorice's and Olive Theory
- **WESTMONT:** Cucinova, L&F Pizza and Woodgrain
- **WOODRIDGE:** Al's Pizzeria, and Papa's Pizza

Each of the 10 businesses will bring 30 pizzas, letting participants sample their products. The businesses will vie

for the honor of being named the top area pizza, a title which will be revealed at 7:30 p.m.

Those who buy tickets get to enjoy 10 pieces of pizza, as well as a fundraiser raffle in the ambiance of a decorated Downers Grove South High School cafeteria, complete with Italian music.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the foundation, which in turn provides grants for teachers in the district.

Callerman said the usual draw has been about 300 participating pizza patrons, but she hopes this year will prove more successful. At worst, she said, she could guarantee a full stomach for anyone who comes.

"It's two-fold – people know they're supporting the organization and supporting their school while having a great time for \$10 a person," she said. "But we can't do it without the community. They all need to come out to the dinner and enjoy the dinner."