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Altrusa event to be a treat

By ROBERT MILLER

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Texas-based jewelry maker Matthew Trent has created "designer" chocolate treats for an event that will benefit around a dozen nonprofit agencies.

Chocoholics will instantly recognize such creative thinking as a the mark of Altrusa International Inc. of Downtown Dallas and its trademark **Dessert First** fundraiser, which will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Dallas Contemporary, 2801 Swiss Ave.

Matthew and Lori Trent are the honorary co-chairs.

Champagne, chocolate and other desserts will be served.

Altrusa is an organization of business professionals dedicated to serving the Dallas community. Its focus is on helping women and children in need in the Dallas area, and its motto is "Educating Families for a Better Future."

Over the last 27 years, members of the organization have raised more than \$600,000 to support Dallas-area charities and given more than 60,000 hours of their time to local community service.

Every year the Altrusa International Inc. of Downtown Dallas Foundation awards grants to selected nonprofit groups in the Dallas area. Altrusa combines these grants with hands-on service projects. They include: Association for Independent Living, Attitudes and Attire, the Dallas Bar Foundation's Bar None, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas Community Lighthouse, Dallas Homeowners League, Genesis Women's Shelter, Helping Hands Gleaning Ministry, International Rescue Committee and Literacy Instruction for Texas.

Dessert First's major underwriters include:

\$5,000: James and Angela Thompson Foundation and Mullett Manor.

\$1,000: Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal, Chocolate Secrets, Harper House, Highland Park Cafeteria, Jimmy's Italian Market, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Pugh & Co. LLC, Storage Assessments LLC, Two Sisters Catering, Weber Design Associates and Hilltop Remodeling, Angela Caronia, Alice and Bob Hinckley, Martha and Kent Hofmeister, Dorothy and Mike Nowlin, Elta Sandell, Maggie Radford and Bob Weiss.

To purchase tickets, go to www.altrusadowntowndallas.org and click on "**Dessert First**."

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