ON THE SCENE

By Katie Schroeder

Dining Divas
Step Up Women's Network hosted its annual Shine & Dine benefit.

THE PARTY
The third annual Shine & Dine gala truly stepped it up this year with a location move to the River East Art Center in Streeterville to accommodate a much larger crowd of 700. With an expanded selection of tasting stations, plus VIP tables and passed apps, restaurants, including RL, Henri, Carnivale and Foiled Cupcakes, wowed the crowd.

THE SCENE
Chaired by Christina Manuel and Mandy Twee, the event welcomed local socialites, as well as Amy Laughlin and Chris Johnson of CSI: Miami and ABC's Betrayal, respectively. Afterward, VIPs kept the party going at Quay, where we even spotted some of the participating chefs joining in on the imbibing and socializing.

THE HIGHLIGHTS
Funds totaling $180,000 were raised for Step Up's after-school programs, which mentor teen girls from under-resourced communities. "Step Up changed my life—I no longer doubted myself and my intellectual ability, and it inspired me to do everything in my will to become college-bound," said alumna Felicita Hernandez of her transformation into a confident college student and aspiring nurse. In the last four years, 100 percent of Step Up seniors have graduated high school and been accepted to college.