

MERCI on Middle FAQ

What kind of food will be served?

Guests will enjoy appetizer-sized creations from 10–12 local chefs and restaurants, each showcasing their own signature dish at individual chef stations. Every chef is given creative freedom to design a unique culinary experience.

Will there be enough food?

Yes! Your ticket includes unlimited access to each chef station while supplies last. Guests are encouraged to sample a variety of dishes throughout the event.

Are vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or other dietary-friendly options available?

Each participating chef selects their own menu. We will identify ingredients and note whether dishes are vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or contain common allergens whenever possible.

Can dietary restrictions or food allergies be accommodated?

While we will provide ingredient information, we cannot guarantee that dishes will accommodate specific dietary restrictions or food allergies. Guests with severe allergies should use their own discretion.

Are beverages included with my ticket?

Yes! Your ticket includes beer, wine, water, an exclusive tasting experience from Weldon Mills Distillery, and a signature mocktail.

What types of beverages will be available?

Beer, wine, water, an exclusive tasting from Weldon Mills Distillery, and a signature mocktail.

Can I bring my own food or beverages?

No. Outside food and beverages are not permitted.

What is the seating style?

This year's event offers a relaxed food and wine festival atmosphere. There is no assigned seating for general admission guests. Middle Street will feature round tables that seat eight guests each. Some tables will be reserved for sponsors and reserved table purchasers, while

others will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cocktail tables and lounge areas donated by Charming & Quaint will also be available for everyone to enjoy.

Are seats assigned?

Only tables marked 'Reserved' are assigned for sponsors or reserved table purchasers. All other seating is open.

Can I choose who I sit with?

Yes. Open tables may be shared with friends or other guests.

Can I reserve or purchase a full table?

Yes. Reserved tables are available for purchase in limited quantities and are also included with select sponsorship levels.

How are group reservations handled?

Groups wishing to guarantee seating together should purchase a reserved table. Individual tickets may be purchased online at merciclinic.org/mercionmiddle.

What should I expect if I reserve a table?

Each reserved table seats eight guests and will feature a reserved sign displaying your name or company name.

If I leave my table, can someone else take it?

Reserved tables remain reserved throughout the evening. Open seating may be used by other guests if left unattended.

Will there be waitstaff?

No. Guests are encouraged to explore the event by visiting chef stations, culinary experiences, and beverage stations at their own pace.

What does my ticket include besides food and beverages?

Live music by the I42 Band, culinary experiences, chef tasting stations, two beer and wine bars, a signature mocktail, an exclusive tasting by Weldon Mills Distillery, and a live auction.

Will there be live music?

Yes! The I42 Band will perform throughout the evening.

Is there a dress code?

Dress comfortably for the weather. MERCI on Middle is an outdoor event, so comfortable footwear is recommended.

What is the overall vibe of the event?

Think of MERCI on Middle as a relaxed, upscale outdoor food and wine festival where guests stroll, sample local bites and beverages, enjoy live music, and support an important cause.

Is the event indoors or outdoors?

The event is held outdoors along Middle Street in historic downtown New Bern.

What happens if it rains?

MERCI on Middle is a rain-or-shine event. In the event of inclement weather, activities will move indoors to multiple nearby locations including The Harrison Center, The Chelsea, and other downtown venues.

Where should I park?

Middle Street will be closed for the event. Street parking is available throughout downtown, including public lots such as the Black Bear Lot.

Will accommodations be available for guests with disabilities?

We are finalizing accessibility logistics. While we cannot guarantee personal assistance, we are committed to making the event as accessible as possible.

Will restrooms be available?

Yes. Restrooms will be available throughout the event, including facilities at The Harrison Center.

What time should I arrive?

The event begins promptly at 4:00 p.m. Guests will not be admitted before that time.

What are the event hours?

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where do the proceeds go?

Every dollar raised supports MERCI Clinic's free medical and dental programs, helping provide quality healthcare and dental services to more than 200 uninsured adults each year.

Can I make an additional donation?

Yes. Donations may be made online at merciclinic.org/mercionmiddle or mailed to 1315 Tatum Drive, New Bern, NC 28560.

Will there be fundraising activities during the event?

Yes! The evening will feature a live auction and opportunities to further support MERCI Clinic's mission.

How do I purchase tickets?

Tickets are available online at merciclinic.org/mercionmiddle.

What is included with my ticket?

Admission to MERCI on Middle and unlimited access to all chef stations, culinary experiences, beer, wine, the signature mocktail, the Weldon Mills Distillery tasting, live entertainment, and event activities. Live auction purchases are separate.

Is my ticket tax-deductible?

A portion of your ticket purchase may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The deductible amount will be noted on your receipt.

Can I transfer my ticket?

Yes. Please email Jill McHugh at jmchugh@merciclinic.org.

Are refunds available?

Unfortunately, ticket purchases and sponsorships are non-refundable.

Are children allowed?

MERCI on Middle is an adults-only event. To create the atmosphere and guest experience envisioned for this year's event, attendees must be **21 years of age or older**.

Are pets allowed?

Pets are not permitted. Service dogs, as defined by the ADA, are welcome.