



ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY AND FANS ACROSS THE NATION JOIN BETTER THAN EZRA FOR 11TH ANNUAL EZRA OPEN CHARITY EVENT

By [sheri](#) on August 20, 2012 in [Charity / Non Profit](#)



New Orleans platinum rock stars Better Than Ezra will host their 11th Annual Ezra Open charity event September 7, 2012 at Harrah's Casino Theatre. The 11th Annual Ezra Open, sponsored by Ochsner Health System and Harrah's Casino New Orleans, will feature a celebrity-filled bowling tournament topped off by a patron party with a live and silent auction along with a Better Than Ezra concert with special guests.

Celebrity Co-Chairs Jonathan Silverman and Jennifer Finnigan will be in attendance and co-chair the event with General Manager of the New Orleans Saints Mickey Loomis and his wife Melanie Loomis.

“It’s a true honor to be the event co-chairs for this year’s Ezra Open,” says Emmy award-winning actress Jennifer Finnigan. “We have fallen in love with the people

and city of New Orleans and we want to do anything we can to help.”

Husband and actor/director Jonathan Silverman agrees, “We’ve been coming to the event for 4 years in a row now and it’s really inspiring to see the entertainment and local community come together to help raise money for all the wonderful organizations the Better Than Ezra Foundation supports.”

Celebrities slated to attend the 11th Annual Ezra Open include: Jonathan Silverman, Jennifer Finnigan, Travis McNabb of Sugarland, Emerson Hart of Tonic, Marc Broussard, Tyler Bryant of Tyler Bryant & the Shakedown, Paul Rae, Ben Lawson, Tania Raymonde and more.

Fans outside of New Orleans can also show their support and donate to the Better Than Ezra Foundation through Stage It, an online live concert streaming service.

“Fans across the country who are not able to attend the Ezra Open, wanted a way to support our foundation,” says Kevin Griffin lead singer of Better Than Ezra. “This year we will be partnering with Stage It and stream the concert portion of the Ezra Open LIVE with performances by Marc Broussard, Tyler Bryant, Emerson Hart of Tonic and Better Than Ezra.”

Tickets to watch the live stream on Stage It are \$5 and all proceeds will be distributed by the Better Than Ezra Foundation to various causes that support the structural and cultural heritage of New Orleans and the Gulf South region.

“We are very proud to give back to New Orleans as the city has done so much for us,” says bass player and founding member of Better Than Ezra Tom Drummond. “With the Better Than Ezra Foundation we are really able make a difference in the community and region by partnering with various non-profits.”

Throughout the years Better Than Ezra Foundation has donated funds raised from the annual Ezra Opens to various organizations such as: Preservation Resource Center to renovate and rebuild a first responder’s flooded home from Katrina; New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) to aid the Summer Program for students; Brad Pitt’s Make it Right Foundation to help rebuild homes in the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood; and the Audubon Nature Institute to build the Cool Zoo Splash Park at Audubon Zoo.

Most recently the BTEFoundation has adopted Bethune Elementary in the Holly Grove neighborhood of New Orleans where the foundation has donated school supplies and built an educational playground for the children. The Foundation has also donated funds to support the Louisiana SPCA, CrimeStoppers and the ALS/Gleason Initiative.

For more information on the 11th Annual Ezra Open charity event, to purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities please visit www.btefoundation.org.

To watch the Ezra Open concert LIVE on StageIt, please visit http://www.stageit.com/better_than_ezra/11th_annual_ezra_open_charity_show/12764

ABOUT BETTER THAN EZRA FOUNDATION

New Orleans rock band Better Than Ezra began their fundraising event, the Ezra Open, 11 years ago. After Hurricane Katrina, the foundation shifted their focus and established a mission to commit funding towards the renewal of the structural and cultural heritage of New Orleans and Southern Louisiana. Since then, the Better Than Ezra Foundation has raised over \$850,000 for various causes in and around New Orleans.