



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Helping seniors, disabled individuals
and families in financial crisis achieve
stable, healthy and independent lives.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interfaith Community Services
2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741-2502

www.icstucson.org

Contact: Deborah Carr, 520-297-6049 x222 or dcarr@icstucson.org

Artisans and Food Partners Come Together at Interfaith Community Services’ “Empty Bowls” Fundraiser to Fight Hunger and Feed Hope

Dozens of local potters and eateries are contributing to Interfaith Community Services’ sixth annual “Empty Bowls” spring fundraiser to benefit the ICS Food Banks and the nearly 30,000 people the food pantries assist each year. Empty Bowls takes place on **Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center at 1288 W. River Road. **Tickets are \$25 per person and are available online at www.icstucson.org or by calling 520-297-6049 x209. Due to space limitations, tickets will be sold in advance only through February 25, 2017.** ICS expects a sellout crowd of more than 1,000 people for the event, which is the agency’s largest annual fundraiser.

Guests at Empty Bowls will sample signature soups, breads and desserts from some of the Tucson-area’s finest local restaurants and food partners; enjoy a silent auction and raffle; and select a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted pottery bowl as a reminder of the effort to end hunger in our community. Ocotillo Rain and Thunder will perform their unique blend of bluegrass music.

Using clay donated by event sponsors Marjon Ceramics and Laguna Clay, local artisan potters from the Southern Arizona Clay Artists and many local studios began creating bowls for the event in fall of 2016. The potters plan to make and donate over 1,000 bowls by March. “The potters are so excited to be part of this,” says ceramist Jada Crellin Ahern, owner of Jada’s Clay and board member of the Southern Arizona Clay Artists, who is organizing potters and bowls for this year’s event. “This is truly a labor of love for the potters and a personal way for them to share their compassion for helping the hungry.”

To date, nineteen area restaurants have stepped up to provide soups, breads, or desserts at Empty Bowls: Bob’s Steak & Chop House at Omni Tucson National Resort, Claire’s Café, Country Club of La Cholla, eegee’s, Elmcroft of River Centre, Gourmet Girls Gluten Free Bakery/Bistro, The Grill at Hacienda del Sol, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern Arizona, Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Resort, Iskashitaa/The Fountains of La Cholla, Kingfisher, Mountain View Retirement Village, Noble Hops, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Outback Steakhouse, Sazerac Creole Kitchen & Cocktails, Splendido at Rancho Vistoso, Sunrise Senior Living, and Vero Amore.

ICS Chief Executive Officer Daniel Stoltzfus says that ICS appreciates all the work the potters put into the event, as well as the many food partners, patrons and volunteers who donate so generously to make Empty Bowls possible.

Proceeds from Empty Bowls benefit the ICS Food Banks and programs to feed and assist households in Pima County that are struggling. Last year, Empty Bowls netted \$76,000 for the ICS Food Banks and enabled the ICS Food Banks to offer expanded hours from 5-7 on Tuesday evenings at the ICS Ina Road location. Funds raised at the 2017 event will again support the ICS Food Banks in keeping their shelves stocked through the spring and summer months, as well as serving more families on Tuesday evenings.

“We continue to see so many families faced with the painful decision of paying for rent or utilities and putting food on the table,” says ICS Chief Executive Officer Daniel Stoltzfus. “Empty Bowls enables ICS to help these families meet

the most basic need for food," he adds. Recipients are also referred to the many additional wrap-around services ICS provides to help them mitigate crisis and support them in building self-sufficiency, including its Job Resource Centers and financial literacy programs.

The ICS Food Banks, which are affiliated pantry partners of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, distributed \$1.9 million worth of food and nourished more than 28,000 individuals throughout Pima County from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. Of the clients served at the ICS Food Banks, more than one-third are school-aged children. The food banks are located at the ICS main office at 2820 W. Ina Road, on the campus of Christ the King Episcopal Church, and at its eastside location at 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail, on the campus of New Spirit Lutheran Church.

Empty Bowls is presented by Precision Toyota of Tucson, Wendell and Rose Tyson, Dorothy D. Vanek and Richard and Judy Weill. Additional Empty Bowls sponsors include Paul Ash Management Company, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and Steve and Ruth Pollyea. To become a sponsor for the ICS Empty Bowls event, contact Deborah Carr, ICS Philanthropy Director, at 297-6049 x222.

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. Events have now taken place across the United States and in at least a dozen other countries, raising millions of dollars for hunger-fighting organizations like Interfaith Community Services.

###

EMPTY BOWLS EVENT AT A GLANCE:

WHAT: Empty Bowls Fundraiser to benefit the ICS Food Banks

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 4, 2017

WHERE: Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W. River Road

COST: \$25 per person

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Go online to www.icstucson.org or call 520-297-6049 x209