

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Raising Funds to Fight Hunger in Columbia County

Columbia County, Oregon – For a second year the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families is organizing a fund-raising event to benefit the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, which provides food for low-income people.

Fight hunger, promote the arts and get involved in your community. Join members of the CCCCCF on Friday, March 28th, from 5 PM – 7 PM for a simple meal of soup and bread and keep the handcrafted bowl as a reminder of hunger in the world.

The second annual Empty Bowls event will be held at the St. Helens Senior Center, 375 S. 15th Street. A silent auction will include ceramic work by local artists, together with other items donated by merchants and individuals in the community.

Tickets are available for \$10 at Houlton Bakery, the St. Helens Book Shop and at the office of the Commission on Children and Families in the county courthouse. All proceeds will go to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank and all donations are welcome.

Soup and bread are being donated by a number of local restaurants. Pottery students at St. Helens High School and Scappoose High School have contributed bowls for this event, as have a number of professional artists. According to this year's event coordinators, Susan Easley and Joan Cisneros, "This has been a difficult year in Columbia County and has stretched the resources of the Food Bank. We are grateful for the generosity of the people in this community who support Empty Bowls and participate in our effort to raise funds to feed the hungry."

HISTORY OF EMPTY BOWLS: In 1990 a high school art teacher in Michigan helped his students solve a problem. They were searching for a way to raise funds to support a food drive. What evolved was a class project to make ceramic bowls for a fund raising meal. Guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread, and were invited to keep the bowl as a reminder of hunger in the world. Since then Empty Bowls events have been held throughout the world, and millions of dollars have been raised to combat hunger.

For tickets or more information about the Empty Bowls Fundraiser,
please call the CCCCCF office at 503-397-7211.

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