

The Empty Bowls Project

Interfaith Food Pantry

The Empty Bowls Project is a great activity for everyone from 6th grade and up! The Empty Bowl symbolizes those across the world and even in our own backyard who are going hungry. Through promotion, volunteers, and donation, you can raise money for those who need it most.

The Empty Bowl Project is great for any type of group or organization, from pottery and art classes to church youth groups and key clubs to large corporations looking to give back to the community.

The first step is to create the empty bowls for your event. You can make them out of pottery, clay, or other materials and even use a theme if you wish.

When putting on the Empty Bowls Event, there are many ways you can go about raising the funds. The primary goal is to raise as much money as possible for your charity through the use of the empty bowls.

Ways to Raise Funds:

1. You can charge admission to the event, which buys one of the bowls made. Then at the event when the food is served it will be served in the bowl that their ticket paid for and at the end of the event the guests can take their bowls home with them.
2. Alternatively, you can charge admission to the event, and then have an auction at the event for the bowls created.
3. Lastly, you could try not charging admission to the event, and have the guests donate money by purchasing the bowls solely by having an auction or by displaying the bowls on a table and allowing the guests to purchase whichever bowl they desire

Tips:

- *If you are unable to access the materials to create the empty bowls yourself, maybe try to have the bowls donated to the event.*
- *When it comes to the food served at the event try to get the ingredients donated or even getting a chef to donate their time in preparing the food.*
- *All proceeds from the event including admission and the purchase of the bowls should go directly to feeding the hungry by donating the money to a hunger relief organization.*
- *If charging admission make sure it is noted to the guest that the money is directly being donated to a hunger relief organization as well as include that they can donate more at the event by purchasing bowls or that they will receive a complimentary bowl with their purchase.*
- *If you decide not to serve the food in the bowls, try to still serve the food in a bowl to reinforce the idea of the empty bowl. Some suggested courses are pasta, soup, chili, etc.*
- *It is a good idea to begin planning this event a year in advance in order to promote and publicize the event as well as gather all the materials needed for the event. Try to work with local newspapers, school administrators, youth group leaders, etc. to publicize the event.*
- *Teach the guests more about hunger by providing hunger information sheets or by having a speaker from a local organization to speak about hunger.*