



Interfaith Food Pantry

Serving Morris County

The Empty Bowls Project

The Empty Bowls Project is a great activity for youth and adult groups! The Empty Bowl symbolizes those across the world and even in our own backyard who are going hungry. Through promotion, volunteers and donations, you can raise money for those who need it the most.

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

How to Begin:

1. The first step is to create the empty bowls for your event. Bowls can be made from paint-your-own pottery, clay, wood or other materials. You can also use a theme if you wish.
2. Host a dinner or lunch event where you will do one of the following to raise funds:
 - a. Charge admission to the event, which buys one of the bowls created.
 - b. Charge admission to the event and then have an auction for the bowls you have created.
 - c. Don't charge admission to the event but have the guests donate money by purchasing the bowls through auction or by displaying the bowls on a table and allowing guests to choose and purchase a bowl.
3. Serve lunch or dinner to guests either using the bowls they have purchased or other bowls to reinforce the idea of the empty bowl.
4. Either prior to dinner or during dinner, talk to the guests about hunger and food insecurity and the impact that their donations will have. You can also invite a guest speaker from the organization you are collecting, such as the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Tips:

- If you are unable to create the bowls, try to have them donated for the event.
- When it comes to the food served at the event, try to get the ingredients donated or even getting a chef or restaurant to donate their time and/or ingredients.
- 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.
- It is a good idea to plan this event well in advance in order to promote and publicize the event as well as gather all the materials you will need.