

MEDIA RELEASE
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2007 Empty Bowls Most Successful Yet!

Over 450 people supported this year's Empty Bowls Event which raised \$16,791, bringing the total raised in the nine years the event has been held in Waterloo to \$90,491. The Waterloo Potter's Workshop and the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery presented the proceeds to The Food Bank of Waterloo Region today. These funds will be used by The Food Bank to help provide emergency food to the estimated 25,000 people that will require food assistance this year. Half of these will be children.

"The Waterloo Potter's Workshop and The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery have created a wonderful partnership and community event to help us all remember those in our community who have difficulty putting food on the table," said Katharine Schmidt, Executive Director of The Food Bank.

Gourmet soups and breads donated and served by local restaurants and savoured in hand-crafted pottery bowls ensure the event is enjoyed each year by the over 450 people who purchase tickets. Participating restaurants and bakeries included: Charbries, Classic Indian, Conestoga College, Hannah's Bella Bistro, King Street Trio, King Crab, Solé, Rushes, The Rude Native, Princess Café and Espresso Bar, Benjamin's Restaurant, Bread and Bretzel Basket, Inc, City Café Bakery, Nougat Bakery and Delicatessen, Vincenzo's, and The Stone Crock Bakery. Services and materials (including clay for the bowls) was donated by S&S Pottery Supplies, Tucker's Pottery Supplies, M&T Printing Group, Complete Rentals and Straight Street Event Services and harpists Barbara Hall and Christine Maree.

"Each time our guests take the empty bowl they selected at this event from their cupboard it provides a tangible reminder that someone else's bowl is empty and that on this occasion they helped alleviate hunger in our community," Rosemarie Startek, Waterloo Potter's Workshop.

Cash donations are essential for acquiring and distributing the 3 million pounds of food needed each year by The Food Bank. For each \$1 donated The Food Bank is able to provide over \$8 worth of emergency food through its 67 member agency community food programs. In addition to purchasing tickets for Empty Bowls next year, the community can help by making donations online at www.thefoodbank.ca or by calling The Food Bank.

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