

Empty Bowls

www.foodbankofmanatee.org

Celebrating 17 Years!

July 2017

Dear Friend,

It's that time of the year again so please mark your calendar as we invite you to participate in 17th Annual "Empty Bowls" Luncheons to benefit The Food Bank of Manatee!

What:

Annual Luncheon
benefiting
The Food Bank
of Manatee

When:

11:00am - 1:00pm
November 2 and 3, 2017

How you can help:

By donating
5 gallons of soup

Where:

Thursday, November 2nd

Renaissance on 9th
1816 9th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Friday, November 3rd

8131 Main Street
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



Empty Bowls will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 and Friday, November 3, 2017, rain or shine. We anticipate more than 500 attendees at each location who will enjoy your soup while contributing to The Food Bank of Manatee. Guests will also select a beautiful, handcrafted bowl to keep, made by local volunteers and potters. **By donating 5 gallons of soup**, your restaurant will gain considerable exposure and one-on-one interaction with hundreds of prospective customers, as we remind the community that they can help to fill the empty bowl of a neighbor in need.

As a participant of this event, your restaurant will be featured in our event publicity, including newspaper advertisements, The Food Bank of Manatee web page, social media, e-blasts, marketing and promotional materials, and at the events.

Please complete the 2017 restaurant participation form on the back by October 6, 2017. The earlier you reply, the more exposure your restaurant will receive as we promote the events. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Bjork, 941-749-0100 ext. 2114, jbjork@renaissanceon9th.org.

We hope that you will be a part of our Empty Bowls events! Your tax-deductible contribution is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to your participation at this special event!

Sincerely,

Maribeth Phillips
Chief Executive Officer

The Food Bank of Manatee, operated by Meals on Wheels PLUS
811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton FL 34208
941-747-4655 www.foodbankofmanatee.org

Yes, I would like to donate soup!



PLEASE RETURN BEFORE OCTOBER 6, 2017

Reminder: The earlier you submit this form, the more promotion your restaurant will receive!

For your donation of **5 gallons of soup**, your restaurant will receive recognition in media advertising, on event posters and flyers, in emails, on social media, and on the MOW+ event web page. We expect more than 1,000 attendees at the 2-day event, your participation will also provide you with one-on-one interaction with prospective customers as they sample your soup.

Guests who attend Empty Bowls select a beautiful, handcrafted bowl to keep and then enjoy soup provided by local restaurants. There will also be dessert, entertainment and activities. All proceeds benefit The Food Bank of Manatee, where our vision is one of a hunger-free community. Your tax-deductible contribution is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND FAX TO 941-749-0110 OR EMAIL TO jbjork@renaissanceon9th.org

Please check one or both of the options below:

- Yes**, I can donate 5 gallons of hot soup, and will deliver to Renaissance on 9th 1816 9th Street West in Bradenton, on **Thursday, November 2, 2017**, ready for service by 10:30 am.
- Yes**, I can donate 5 gallons of hot soup, and will deliver to 8131 Main Street, in Lakewood Ranch, on **Friday, November 3, 2017**, ready for service by 10:30 am.

NAME OF RESTAURANT _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MY STAFF WILL SERVE SOUP PLEASE HAVE A VOLUNTEER SERVE SOUP

SOUP NAME/DESCRIPTION _____

(Please share so it can be featured in event advertising.)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Questions? Call Judi Bjork, 749-0100 ext. 2114, Jbjork@renaissanceon9th.org

Thank you for your generosity



Celebrating 17 Years!

Empty Bowls- November 2 and 3, 2017 Reminders, Questions & Answers for Restaurant Participants

Where will the events be held?

- **Thursday, November 2nd** at Renaissance on 9th, 1816 9th Street West, Bradenton (just south of LECOM Park) ***Unload in the back of the building, and please park behind the fence as the lot gets full very quickly.***
- **Friday, November 3rd** on Main Street in Lakewood Ranch (you will see the tents set up in the street)

Hours for both days are 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$25, available at www.foodbankofmanatee.org or at the door. Guests will select a bowl to keep, sample 3 soups (sample cups will be given at registration), and select one full bowl for their lunch. Additional sample cups and bowl refills will be available for purchase. Dining tables will be set up at both locations to allow guests to enjoy their soup.

What time should we arrive? Please arrive with hot soup at 10:00 am to be **ready for service by 10:30 am.** Upon arriving, check in with our Restaurant Coordinator.

How many guests come to the luncheon? Based on 2016, we expect 500+ guests to attend each luncheon; therefore ***each participating restaurant has agreed to provide 5 gallons of hot soup.***

How should we transport the soup? It is best to bring the soup in the large pot(s) you will serve from.

How will the soup be kept warm? We will supply sternos at each soup station.

What supplies should I provide?

5 gallons of hot soup, a large serving pot, a serving ladle, and a Server. Supplying your own Server awards you the opportunity to talk with existing or prospective customers. Soup Servers must take a guest's "Soup Ticket" before serving a full bowl of soup. If you have no one to serve your soup, we will supply a volunteer to serve. (If unable to attend, **please label your pot and ladle clearly.**) *We will provide soup description signs, 2 oz. "sample/tasting" cups, spoons, napkins, beverages, and of course – the bowls.*

What about media coverage and advertising?

Event coordinators pursue exposure opportunities with all local media, including ABC-7, Bay News 9, Bradenton Herald, Herald-Tribune, Suncoast Living Magazine, and East County Observer. Media are also invited to cover the event. Restaurants are listed on the Food Bank webpage, in promotional e-blasts and in print advertisements as space allows.

Additional Questions?

Contact Judi Bjork, bjork@renaissanceon9th.org, 941-749-0100 ext. 2114

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2017 Hunger Facts

State:

- 3.5 million Floridians are food insecure, 1.1 million are children.

Local:

- In Manatee County, 43% of the households do not earn enough income to cover the basic cost of living.
- Over 70% of children in the Manatee County area qualify for free or reduced school meals.
- Studies done by Feeding Tampa Bay showed that 58% of families surveyed were forced to choose between buying food and paying for basic utilities.
- Improper nutrition associated with low income families results in hunger related illnesses and medical problems.
- Hunger in school-age children decreases development, hinders ability to concentrate and affects attendance.
- Hunger in adults decreases productivity, creates absences from work and insufficient performance.

How the Food Bank of Manatee serves these critical needs:

- The Food Bank of Manatee distributed 4.6 million pounds of food in 2016, to Manatee County residents.
- The Food Bank of Manatee is the primary collection and distribution point for food in the entire county, working with over 115 partner agencies consisting of soup kitchens, food pantries, after school programs and social services agencies.
- In 2016 over 310,000 pounds of food made up Emergency Food baskets and Baby Baskets to feed almost 3,000 at risk individuals in Manatee County. Of those at risk, 1240 were infants that were given formula and diapers from The Food Bank of Manatee.
- The Food Bank of Manatee assembled and distributed over 10,000 weekend food bags to Manatee County children over the 9 weeks of summer recess in 2017.
- More than 350 volunteers donate their time at The Food Bank of Manatee each year, packing food boxes and sorting donated food.

The Food Bank of Manatee is operated by Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, recognized as a 4-Star Charity by Charity Navigator.