

Empty Bowls

www.foodbankofmanatee.org

Celebrating 17 Years!

July 2017

Dear Friend,

We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer!

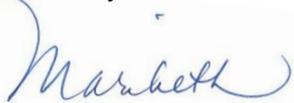
As you may know, for more than a decade, The Food Bank of Manatee has worked with local businesses to produce the annual "Empty Bowls" benefit, drawing larger crowds each year. Nearly 1,000 people attended last year's two-day event, helping to raise over \$20,000 for The Food Bank!

Please consider joining us as a sponsor for Empty Bowls 2017, the Food Bank of Manatee's annual fundraiser. Guests of these luncheons enjoy a variety of soup provided by local restaurants with fresh bread, and then select a unique, handcrafted soup bowl to keep. The symbolic meal of soup and bread demonstrates that together, we can fill the empty bowls of our neighbors in need. Your support of Empty Bowls will help children, families, and seniors in need, right here in our community. All proceeds benefit The Food Bank of Manatee. Please review the enclosed sponsorship opportunities to see how you can make an impact, while also gaining valuable exposure to residents and local businesses.

Empty Bowls 2017 will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on **Thursday, November 2, 2017** at Renaissance on 9th near downtown Bradenton and LECOM Park and on **Friday, November 3, 2017** at Main Street in Lakewood Ranch.

A listing of sponsor levels and benefits is enclosed. Please make your selection and return the completed form to us **before September 22, 2017**, for maximum promotional benefits. *Thank you for your consideration!*

Sincerely,



Maribeth Phillips
Chief Executive Officer



811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton FL 34208
941-747-FOOD • www.foodbankofmanatee.org

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Help us fight hunger in our community by supporting the 17th Anniversary of "Empty Bowls." You will receive valuable business exposure and recognition of your goodwill. **One hundred percent** of the proceeds will benefit our neighbors in need. To become a sponsor, please select from the levels below and complete the attached form.

Bowl Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000

- Recognition in all promotional materials, including newspaper ads, website, flyers, newsletter and emails as "Empty Bowls presented by – *your name here*"
- Your company's ad on the soup menu given to all attendees of both events
- A table at the event for promoting your company's services (materials supplied by sponsor)
- Your company logo on event sponsorship banner and on additional event signage
- Opportunity to display company banner (supplied by sponsor) at both luncheons
- Ten guest passes to your luncheon of your choice with reserved seating
- Social Media Recognition: Weekly mentions on Food Bank of Manatee Facebook.

Souper Sponsor - \$2,500

- Your company logo in promotional newspaper ads, website, flyers, newsletter and emails
- Your logo on the soup menu given out to all attendees at both events
- A table at the event for promoting your company's services (materials supplied by sponsor)
- Your company logo on event sponsorship banner and on additional event signage
- Opportunity to display company banner (supplied by sponsor) at both luncheons
- Eight guest passes to luncheon of your choice with reserved seating
- Social Media Recognition: Multiple mentions on the Food Bank of Manatee Facebook page

Gumbo Sponsor - \$1,500

- Your company name displayed on high-visibility, ceramic bowl tables
- Your company name in promotional materials, including event flyers, website, newsletter and emails
- Opportunity to distribute or display your brochures or cards (supplied by sponsor)
- Your company logo on event sponsorship banner and on additional event signage
- Six guest passes to the luncheon of your choice

Chowder Sponsor - \$1,000

- Your company name in promotional materials, including event flyers, website, newsletter and emails
- Opportunity to distribute or display your brochures or cards (supplied by sponsor)
- Your company logo on event sponsorship banner and on additional event signage
- Four guest passes to the luncheon of your choice

Spoon Sponsor - \$500

- Your company name in promotional materials, including website, event flyers and emails
- Your company name on event sponsorship banner and on additional event signage
- Two guest passes to the luncheon of your choice

For questions and to make arrangements to place your brochures and/or business cards on the advertising tables, please contact Judi Bjork jbjork@renaissanceon9th.org 941-749-0100 ext 2114.

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COMMITMENT FORM

**Yes, I would like to sponsor the 17th Anniversary of the
Empty Bowls luncheons!**

Please choose a sponsor level below and return this form with your payment information.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowl | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Souper | \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gumbo | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chowder | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spoon | \$ 500 |

*Sponsorship commitments are requested to be received by **September 22, 2017**, to take advantage of maximum pre-event publicity. Please email your company's logo to bjork@renaissanceon9th.org.*

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Address _____ City/St./Zip _____

Payment:

- A check made payable to The Food Bank of Manatee is enclosed
- Please send me an invoice

I would like to pay by VISA/Master Card:

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Mail: The Food Bank of Manatee - 811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208

Fax: 941-749-0110

THANK YOU! Your support will help our neighbors in need.

Questions? Please contact Judi Bjork

bjork@renaissanceon9th.org 941-749-0100 ext. 2114



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.