



*Helping seniors, disabled individuals  
and families in financial crisis achieve  
stable, healthy and independent lives.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 11, 2015**

**Interfaith Community Services  
2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741-2502**

[www.icstucson.org](http://www.icstucson.org)

Contact: Deborah Carr, 520.297.2738 ext. 222 or [dcarr@icstucson.org](mailto:dcarr@icstucson.org)

## **Local Potters Creating 1,000 Bowls, Over 20 Food Vendors Donating Food for ‘Empty Bowls’ Fundraiser to Benefit the ICS Food Bank**

Dozens of local potters and eateries are contributing to Interfaith Community Services’ fourth annual “Empty Bowls” spring fundraiser to benefit the ICS Food Bank and the thousands of households it assists each year. Empty Bowls takes place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on March 28 at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W. River Road. **Tickets are \$20 per person; due to space limitations, tickets will be sold in advance only** through March 25. Interfaith Community Services (ICS), which is observing 30 years of providing help and hope to the Pima County community, expects a sellout crowd of more than 1,000 people for the event, which is the agency’s largest annual fundraiser.

Guests at Empty Bowls will sample signature soups, breads and desserts from 21 local restaurants and food vendors; enjoy a silent auction and raffle; and select a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted pottery bowl as a reminder of the effort to end hunger in our community.

With a hefty donation of clay from Marjon’s Ceramics and Laguna Clay, local potters began creating unique bowls for the event in December. The potters plan to make and donate more than 1,000 bowls for the event.

ICS Chief Executive Officer Daniel Stoltzfus said, “ICS is so thankful for all the work the potters put into the event, as well as our partners and volunteers who donate so generously to make Empty Bowls possible.”

Proceeds from Empty Bowls will benefit the ICS Food Bank and its programs to feed and help people who are struggling in Pima County. The ICS Food Bank, which partners with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, nourished almost 26,000 individuals throughout Pima County with nearly \$1.7 million worth of food last year.

“We are seeing more of our neighbors each month who need help putting food on the table,” Stoltzfus says. “Families struggle to make the painful choice between paying for rent and groceries, utilities or medications – or all four,” he adds. The money raised at Empty Bowls will go a long way toward helping Interfaith Community Services assist households that are experiencing hard times in meeting the most basic need for nutrition. Of the clients served at the ICS Food Bank, more than one-third are school-aged children.

Empty Bowls, created by The Imagine Render Group, is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. Events have taken place across the United States and in at least a dozen other countries, raising millions of dollars for hunger-fighting organizations.

--more--

## Empty Bowls Pottery, Soup Fundraiser to Benefit the ICS Food Bank/2

ICS is grateful to presenting sponsors Precision Toyota of Tucson, Wendell and Rose Tyson, and Dorothy D. Vanek. Additional sponsors include Paul Ash Management Group, CyraCom International, Steve and Ruth Pollyea, Splendido at Rancho Vistoso, Richard and Judy Weill, Arizona Self Storage, Skin Spectrum and Elizabeth Percy.

A variety of the area's restaurants and food vendors are participating in the event (with more added weekly): Atria Bell Court Gardens, Atria Compana del Rio, Bob's Steak & Chop House at Omni Tucson National Resort, Caffe Torino, Casas Adobes Post-Acute Rehabilitation, Cascades Retirement Center, Catalina Spring Memory Care, Country Club of La Cholla, eegee's, El Charro Café, Elmcroft of River Centre, Got 2 Be Gluten Free, Gourmet Girls Gluten Free Bakery and Bistro, The Grill at Hacienda del Sol, Harvest, La Baguette, La Hacienda Family Mexican Restaurant, Mountain View Retirement Village, Noble Hops, Splendido at Rancho Vistoso and Sunrise Senior Living. There are soups to appeal to all taste buds from chicken alfredo pasta to sausage and kale to cold melon and more.

Tickets to Empty Bowls are \$20 per person and can be purchased online at [www.icstucson.org](http://www.icstucson.org) or by phone at (520) 297-2738 x209. In honor of Interfaith Community Services' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, guests have the option of giving an extra \$10 donation to round up their ticket purchase to \$30. Additional funds raised will help the ICS Food Bank serve more families facing hunger. To become a sponsor or a participating food partner, contact Carr at (520) 297-2738 x222.

**About ICS:** ICS is a nonprofit organization that provides food, job assistance, and emergency financial assistance to Pima County residents in need and mobilizes volunteers to provide seniors and disabled individuals with Mobile Meals, transportation, home repairs, calls and visits, and health and safety referrals. ICS offers compassionate support by connecting 700 volunteers and 78 diverse faith community partners with our region's most vulnerable residents. From nutritious food to job-search assistance to a ride to the doctor's office, ICS helps more than 36,000 people a year. ICS has received Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars for five years in a row for its fiscal responsibility and best practices.

### **EMPTY BOWLS EVENT AT A GLANCE:**

**WHAT:** Empty Bowls Fundraiser to benefit the ICS Food Bank

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28

**WHERE:** Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W. River Road

**COST:** \$20 per person

**TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLY:** Go online to [www.icstucson.org](http://www.icstucson.org) or call (520) 297-2738 x209

### **Participating Restaurants and Food Partners (as of 3-10-15):**

Atria Bell Court Gardens, Atria Compana del Rio, Bob's Steak & Chop House at Omni Tucson National Resort, Caffe Torino, Cascades Retirement Center, Country Club at La Cholla, eegee's, El Charro Café, Elmcroft of River Centre, Gourmet Girls Gluten Free Bakery and Bistro, The Grill at Hacienda del Sol, Harvest, La Baguette, La Hacienda Family Mexican Restaurant, Mountain View Retirement Village, Noble Hops, Outback Steakhouse, Splendido at Rancho Vistoso and Sunrise Senior Living.

### **Event Sponsors:**

Presenting Sponsors: Precision Toyota of Tucson, Wendell and Rose Tyson, and Dorothy D. Vanek. Additional sponsors include Paul Ash Management Group, CyraCom International, Steve and Ruth Pollyea, Splendido at Rancho Vistoto, Richard and Judy Weill, Arizona Self Storage, Skin Spectrum and Elizabeth Percy.