

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**February 27, 2009**

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**Raising Funds to Fight Hunger in Columbia County**

**Columbia County, Oregon** – For the third consecutive year the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families is organizing a fund-raising event to benefit the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, which provides food for low-income people.

Fight hunger, promote the arts and get involved in your community. Join members of the CCCCCF on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 5 PM – 7 PM for a simple meal of soup and bread and keep the handcrafted bowl as a reminder of hunger in the world.

The third annual Empty Bowls event will be held at the St. Helens Senior Center, 375 S. 15th Street. Tickets are available for \$10 at Houlton Bakery, the St. Helens Book Shop and at the office of the Commission on Children and Families in the county courthouse. All proceeds will go to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank and all donations are welcome.

This is truly a community effort. Soup and bread are being donated by a number of local restaurants: The Klondike, The Dockside, Mark's on the Channel, Wild Currant Catering and Houlton Bakery. Coffee will be provided by our local Starbucks and A group of 4H youth will be baking and selling cookies as a community project, providing a sweet finish to the evening and a boost to fundraising.

Pottery students at both St. Helens High School and Scappoose High School have contributed bowls for this event, as they have in years past. According to event coordinator, Susan Conn, "The resources of the Food Bank are stretched thin and donations are needed throughout the year. We are grateful for the generosity of the people in this community who support Empty Bowls each year and invite them to again help us raise funds to feed the hungry."

HISTORY OF EMPTY BOWLS: In 1990 a high school art teacher in Michigan helped his students solve a problem. They were searching for a way to raise funds to support a food drive. What evolved was a class project to make ceramic bowls for a fund raising meal. Guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread, and were invited to keep the bowl as a reminder of hunger in the world. Since then Empty Bowls events have been held throughout the world, and millions of dollars have been raised to combat hunger.

For tickets or more information about the Empty Bowls Fundraiser, please call the CCCCCF office at 503-397-7211.

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