

For Release

2010 Empty Bowls in Fort Worth to its host largest crowd ever
Friday, Feb 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Event SOLD OUT for third consecutive year
1,500-plus guests expected

**2,000 hand-crafted bowls donated plus cuisine from record number of restaurants (27),
all to benefit regional food bank and its 300 partner charities**

Ticket sales totaling 1,579 for Empty Bowls in Fort Worth prompted Tarrant Area Food Bank to close sales this past weekend

VISUAL OPPS: 2,000 colorful handcrafted ceramic, blown-glass and wood-turned bowls will be on display for each guest to claim a bowl as a keepsake. Signature soups, breads and desserts prepared by 27 area chefs will be served in "greenware"--nature-based, bio-degradable and heat-resistant soup bowls along with spoons, dessert forks and napkins of the same material.

INTERVIEW OPPS: 1,500 guests from throughout the greater Tarrant County metro area; Master Artisans who contributed bowls; Empty Bowls Event Volunteers; Tarrant Area Food Bank staff.

WHAT: "EMPTY BOWLS—An Artful Luncheon to Fight Hunger," presented by Tom Thumb and benefiting Tarrant Area Food Bank, features ceramic, wood and even glass bowls by North Texas artisans as well as luncheon fare donated by 27 of Fort Worth's favorite restaurants and caterers.

EACH GUEST SELECTS A KEEPSAKE from among the 2,000 handcrafted or hand-painted bowls and samples signature soups and desserts prepared and donated by some of the Fort Worth area's top chefs.

A SILENT AUCTION offers one-of-a-kind pieces by professional artisans such as a horsehair vase, a wood sculpture, a hand-blown fluted glass bowl and a ceramic chili set, as well as items such as a jean "fit " party for 10, a year's supply of salsa, a F-35A model jet from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics and box seats for a Texas Rangers Baseball game.

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 2010, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (At 10:30 a.m. sponsor guests enter event before general admission at 11 a.m.)

WHERE: East Texas Room in Amon G. Carter Exhibit Hall at Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster, Fort Worth.

WHO:

LOCAL ARTISTS who donated their bowls AND who also WILL BE at Empty Bowls include:

- from FORT WORTH: Artisan Chairperson Janet Rodriguez of Hart Street Pottery, Earlene Green of the Tarrant County College art department, Artisan Co-Chairperson Glenda Endres, Kim Shearer of Dragonfly Pottery and Barbara Throne of The Pottery Studio at Lockheed-Martin Recreation Association;
- from ARLINGTON - Paula Cadle, David Sieja of Yaki-Tam Pottery and Jill Whitfill of Rimrock View Studio;

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- from OTHER CITIES: Kashmira Mistry of Roanoke and Ken Orr of Old Katy Glass Works Art Gallery in Denison, who will throw pottery on the potter's wheel at Empty Bowls.

THE 27 RESTAURANTS, CATERERS and CHEFS contributing soups, breads and desserts include:

- Participating FOR THE FIRST TIME are Bob's Steak & Chop House, Cast Iron at Omni Fort Worth Hotel, Mac's on 7th Street, Pappasito's Cantina and Vidalia's;
- RETURNING are BK's Creative Catering, Blue Bonnet Bakery, Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine, City Kitchen Catering, Colonial Country Club, Judie Byrd - The Culinary School of Fort Worth, La Familia, Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, McKinley's Fine Bakery and Cafe, Panera Bread, Paris Coffee Shop, Reata Restaurant, Risky's Catering, Ruffino's Ristorante Italiano, Starbucks, Sublime Bakery, Tarrant Area Food Bank Community Kitchen, Tarrant County College Southeast Campus, The Covey Restaurant & Brewery, Tom Thumb Signature Soups, Ultimate Cuisine and Events by Chef Tom and Wild About Food.

WHY: During the economic recession, Tarrant Area Food Bank and its partner food pantries have seen a 37 percent increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. Food pantries are now providing groceries to 44,000 families per month compared to 32,000 a year ago.

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK, founded in 1982 to collect and distribute donated food, provides food in 13 counties to emergency pantries, Kids Cafes and other after-school programs, emergency shelters, senior centers and other social service centers. Each month, this network of hunger-relief charities distributes emergency groceries to 44,000 families and serves 575,000 meals and snacks on charities' sites.

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