

# Empty Bowl Project Celebrates 20th Anniversary



MCC students were instrumental in the event. Here's a student serving in the kitchen. (Quoron Walker/Courant Community)



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**T**he annual Empty Bowl Project celebrated 20 years at **Manchester Community College**.

This year's event was held on Oct. 21.

The Empty Bowls Project at MCC has raised a total of \$270,000 to benefit Foodshare since its inception. This year, more than \$28,000 was raised.

"I'm blown away by this event. I'm blown away that such a simple event has generated so much good for our organization," said Foodshare President and CEO Jason Jakubowski.

Jakubowski became the new head of Foodshare earlier this year.

Attendees waited in line, admiring the crafted bowls before the event began..

The event was entirely volunteer driven. Of the 100 volunteers, many were MCC faculty, staff, and students.

Guests had the opportunity to have a meal featuring hearty soups, breads, and desserts, and to select a one-of-a-kind soup bowl to take home. The empty bowls serve as a reminder of the need and hunger in the world. Students from the MCC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program served for the afternoon.

Guests were also able purchase soup to bring home.

Carl Stafford, MCC professor and chair of the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management department, and professor Kathy Kern, were the co-chairs of the organizing committee for the Empty Bowls Project. Stafford said he is happy to be a part of the good cause.

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re raising that much money for Foodshare, : [for Foodshare]," Stafford said. "What I like most here serving people today."

"We could not have done this without out Carl and his team. They're the ones are behind it," Jakubowski said.

Bowls were donated from many sources, including John Macomber's South Windsor-based Greenleaf Pottery, and others who donated to MCC. More than 450 bowls were donated.

"High schools, potters, individuals, private companies, MCC students all made bowls," Stafford said.

More than 50 restaurants participated by donating 200 gallons of soup.

Sandra Jenkins, professor emeritus, is one of the founders who brought the event to MCC, with Linda Coons.

Jenkins said that she didn't know the event would take off like it has over the years. The Empty Bowl Project used to be an event in conjunction with a craft fair to attract more people, but the project has taken on a life of its own.

"It's just such a cool community effort when you really look at it. I can't believe this my 20th year," she said.

Jakubowski said this event was good preparation for Foodshare's Turkey and Thirty campaign.

Those who are able are asked to donate a turkey and \$30 to help families in need during Thanksgiving, and year-round. Turkey drives will be done throughout Hartford and Tolland counties.

To find out how to donate in an area near you or online, visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org).

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