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## MCC event to benefit Foodshare in 20th season

By Joe Cooper

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MANCHESTER — Money raised by the 20th annual Empty Bowls Project at Manchester Community College will add to the \$270,000 that the event has collected to address food insecurity.

Attendees pay \$15 and receive a ceramic bowl, made by MCC students and area potters, which they can take home after eating soup served at the event.

The empty bowls serve as a reminder that many people aren't able to provide themselves with a simple meal.

Organizers are collecting 200 gallons of soup from MCC culinary students and donors across the region.

The event takes place Saturday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in MCC's Culinary Arts Center. The school's culinary arts and hospitality management students will also serve breads, desserts, and beverages.

Take-home quarts of soup will be available for \$7, and four bowls are \$25.

Molly Devanney, a four-year honorary chair of the event and adjunct faculty member at MCC, said many of the volunteers have benefited from Foodshare and similar programs responding to food insecurity.

"The Empty Bowls Project is a very special way of getting students and the community involved in a way that makes a difference," Devanney, also the vice president of Highland Park Market, said.

Since early September, organizers have been working with about 50 restaurants and local suppliers who are donating soups and other items.

"There are a score of restaurants that have been with us since the beginning, and they now call us around this time of year to make sure we involve them again," said Carl Stafford, an MCC professor and chair of the culinary arts and hospitality management departments.

Over \$20,000 was raised at the 19th annual event attended by more than 400 people.

The proceeds benefit Foodshare in Hartford and Tolland counties, which serves an estimated 127,000 people in those areas who lack consistent access to food for a healthy and active life.

With help from MCC, Foodshare served more than 675,000 meals in 2016.

"We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support and partnership with Manchester Community College," said Jason Jakubowski, Foodshare president and CEO.

"The Manchester Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs have been a vital force in the success of this event for the past 20 years, not only by providing resources but also awareness in our Greater Hartford community in the fight against hunger," Jakubowski said.

