



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Beth Burrell  
Director of Communications  
[bburrell@pittsburghfoodbank.org](mailto:bburrell@pittsburghfoodbank.org)  
c: 412-977-7026

Ken Regal  
Executive Director, Just Harvest  
[kenr@justharvest.org](mailto:kenr@justharvest.org)  
p: 412-431-8960 ext.115

### **Empty Bowls positioned to serve soup to nearly 1,900**

*Event benefits the Food Bank, Just Harvest*

**Duquesne, PA** (February 22, 2023) – Slated for Sunday, March 26, this year’s Empty Bowls event will serve up a community meal to nearly 1,900 people in an effort to help end hunger across the region. Taking place at Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland, the event will offer a meal of soup and bread benefiting Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) and Just Harvest. In addition to the meal, attendees will select a ceramic bowl made by local artisans to take home as a reminder of our neighbors facing hunger.

“Neighbors across our region are struggling to make ends meet amidst soaring inflation,” shared Lisa Scales, president and CEO of the Food Bank. “Through the Empty Bowls event we hope to bring the community together to provide much needed support for the community.”

This year’s event will continue to encourage social distancing by spreading guests out across three seatings and an increased Soup & Bowl Takeout option. Each seating will accommodate 500 dine-in guests and 125 Soup & Bowl Takeout guests. Seating times for the event are 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.; and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

"With the federal SNAP Emergency Allotments ending this month in Pennsylvania, households getting food stamps are going to have their monthly food budgets cut by an average \$92 per person starting in March," shared Ken Regal, executive director of Just Harvest. "As a result, hunger will almost certainly rise from already high levels, so our community joining together for this event comes at a critical time."

Understanding that many restaurants are still struggling, the Food Bank and Just Harvest have once again offered to underwrite the cost for the soups for this year’s event. Ceramic bowls and pottery for auction have been donated by local ceramicists, schools and community groups.

Tickets are now on sale at [pittsburghfoodbank.org/emptybowls](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org/emptybowls) and are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

###