



Guests at the Empty Bowls dinner picked out a bowl to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. *Shirley MacFarland, special to Sun News*

BENEFIT

Empty Bowls event raises funds to combat hunger

Shirley MacFarland *Special to Sun News*

The bowls were hardly empty at the Empty Bowls Dinner Project presented by the Brecksville Kiwanis and Broadview Heights Lions clubs April 25.

This popular event, which started in 2013, was sold out once again, with hundreds of people feasting on what was billed as a simple meal of soup and bread. The "simple" meal actually consisted of two bowls of soup (out of a choice of 12 varieties), plus salad, bread and — new this year — pizza.

All this for a \$15 donation.

And, as always, diners got to choose a handmade ceramic or wooden bowl created by North Coast Woodturners, Morgan Tigelaar Designs and Rick Del-Poso Ceramics. Guests keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

Food was donated by local restaurants, including Creekside Restaurant, Augie's, Simon's, Farinacci Pizza, Austin's, Frankie's Wok, Royal Breakfast & More, Blue Habanero, Danny Boys, Reinecker's, Zoup!, Michael Angelo's, Sirna's, Mastro's The 3 Spot, London Pickle Works, East of Chicago Pizza, Valenti's Ristorante, The Courtyard Café and Dante's Countyline

Saloon.

North Coast Litho was a sponsor. The Cuyahoga Valley Career Center once again served as the venue.

A huge crew of enthusiastic volunteers served the dinners and cleared away plates.

Proceeds from the Empty Bowls event benefits the Brecksville Food Bank and South Hills Lend-a-Hand in Broadview Heights.

The largest hunger-relief organization in the United States, Feeding America, reports that the nation's food banks could soon be overwhelmed by demand. Statistics show that 1 out of 6 Americans struggles with hunger.

A quote from the flyer that was handed out said: "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

If you are interested in volunteering, go to www.broadviewhtslions.org or www.brecksvillekiwanis.org and learn how you can make a difference in your community.