

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, created by a Michigan art teacher whose vision was to use art to effect positive social change, **Empty Bowls** has now become a national event generating several million dollars for hunger relief; and

WHEREAS, **Feeding America Tampa Bay** will be presenting our community's **19th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon** at Lykes Gaslight Park in downtown Tampa, Florida on Thursday, November 21, 2013, continuing to make Tampa one of the top cities in the country hosting such an event; and

WHEREAS, Feeding America Tampa Bay, established in 1982, distributes surplus food from various sources into the community through a network of over 600 charities and churches throughout ten West Central Florida counties. This Food Bank is a member of the national Feeding America food bank network, the country's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, and serves a poverty population of close to 700,000 across West Central Florida, and it is estimated that 250,000 of those struggling with hunger in the area are children; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Empty Bowls Luncheon have made a substantial difference in the lives of thousands of people in the Tampa Bay area and surrounding communities by providing an opportunity for everyone – children, students, teachers, artists, individuals, companies and volunteers – to participate in this effort to feed and nourish the needy; and

WHEREAS, for a \$10 donation, each attendee receives a modest lunch that includes a bowl of soup, an apple and water, and is given the opportunity to choose from a selection of hundreds of bowls handcrafted by school children. As an additional fundraiser, local artisans are also donating pottery bowls for the silent auction; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the event also benefit *Feeding America Tampa Bay's Kids Café Programs* which provide free, wholesome after-school meals to children who might not otherwise receive evening meals, and these thirteen café's located throughout Tampa Bay provide about 5000 meals weekly to children offering along with a nutritious meal, tutoring, nutrition education, and school supply assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is honored to join in this premier fund-raising effort and recognize this event that does so much for so many in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2013 as

"19TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in expressing appreciation to the volunteers, sponsors and artists involved in this program for their continued commitment to helping improve the quality of life for those less fortunate in our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of November, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor