

# 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 **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon** at Lykes Gaslight Park in downtown Tampa, Florida on Thursday, November 20, 2014, 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, recovers surplus food donations from various sources from local growers, manufacturers, supermarkets, and organized community food drives, and distributes it to a food-insecure population in West Central Florida through a partnership network of more than 600 faith-based and other non-profit hunger relief organizations, and it is estimated that there are approximately 700,000 people in the region struggling with hunger with as many as 250,000 of them children; and

**WHEREAS**, for a \$10 donation, each attendee to the Empty Bowls Luncheon receives a barbeque lunch and ceramic bowl, and the annual event has 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 the effort to feed and nourish the needy; and

**WHEREAS**, proceeds from the event also benefit Feeding America Tampa Bay's children's programs including the Backpack Program, Summer Feeding Program, and Kid's Café, which all focus on reaching children at the times when they are most in need of food since hunger can initiate a series of issues in a child's life that changes his or her future drastically, and by taking part in the fight against hunger early in their lives, these children have a better opportunity for bright futures; 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 20, 2014 as

## ***"21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor