



# NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

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## Olympics Out, But Two Pottery Throw-A-Thons *On*

An annually anticipated summer event, called the Pottery Olympics, is out this year, but in its place, two *Pottery Throw-A-Thons* are on. Earlier this year, the international Olympics Committee hired a copyright lawyer to threaten local non-profit NeighborImpact with a lawsuit for use of the 'olympics' name. In order to avoid being sued, the non-profit agency, which works for the economically disadvantaged in the community demurred its case and changed the name.

Still, two Pottery Throw-A-Thons will preserve the spirit of the traditional pre-fundraising event as well as its means to procure 1,000 bowls for NeighborImpact's *Empty Bowls* fundraiser (on November 11th this year).

According Bob Sant, local potter and co-founder of the event,

"No matter what the name, the tradition persists because of the artists and their ancient rivalries. There are still records to be broken, and 'gold, silver and bronze medals' to be won."

While the 'throw-a-thon' title may not capture potter's anticipation of competition as aptly as did the 'olympics' it does provide some humorous confusion about what the event is:

"Most people think the potters get together and throw plates," said Holly Hutton NeighborImpact Deputy Director.

But it's just not true. Neither is the event a community pledge type 'thon' because in this case the engine behind the event is the potters' enthusiasm and donation, some of whom are eager to be recognized:

"The big old potters need to get ready to move over," said Corinne Vegter, "I'm going to get in there and win a prize too!"

Vegter is the new chair of the Cascades Clay Guild, a member of the Cindercone Co-op and recently moved to Central Oregon with husband-artist Brian Vegter. Her efforts have been vital in gathering the potters for the event and co-planning it with NeighborImpact this year. Without funding comparable to the Olympics Committee, the agency relies upon community donations from volunteers like Vegter and Sant, to help make Central Oregon more inclusive and livable for all.

**The Pottery Throw-A-Thon will happen during downtown Bend's popular First Friday - July 6th and August 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6 - 9 p.m., at the Old Mill Quarter (550 SW Industrial Way in front of The Curiosity Shoppe/Blue Spruce Gallery). The event is free and family friendly.**

The public is invited to attend the Throw-A-Thon to watch local potters compete for medals and prizes rewarding the talent behind: 'the largest bowl'; 'a bowl blindfolded'; 'the most creative pinch pot'; and a 'tandem' creation using kids from the audience. Volunteers are encouraged to participate also as 'clay carriers' and 'interpreters'. A collaborative 'Trimming Day' also follows the day of competition on Saturday, from 10 until 2:00. Those interested in volunteering for either position or either event can contact Chloé Frommer at 548-2380 x.110

**History/Mission:** NeighborImpact seeks to change the course of each family's future by giving them the tools they need to succeed. NeighborImpact's tool box includes Head Start, weatherization, home repair, energy and rent assistance, financial skills building, savings programs, assisting parents to find child care, tutoring homeless children, providing emergency and transitional housing to homeless families, home buyer education and feeding the hungry.

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