



NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

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Participatory Pottery: Previously and Coming Up in NeighborImpact's Pottery Throw-A-Thon

NeighborImpact's Pottery Throw-A-Thon is not only a bunch of potters getting together to throw bowls. As per the event on July 6, the community can be potters too - at least by pinching or sculpting bowls, if not actually throwing them, *or running around casting magic spells a la the ever popular Harry Potter*. At the July 6 Throw-A-Thon, Alissa Clark, a 'clay works' artist from the valley, won the gold prize for the best, audience-judged pinch-pot.

So even though the Pottery Olympics became the 'Pottery Throw-A-Thon' it remains an annually anticipated summer event because of its stiff, yet fun competition – which the audience can be part of now as well. The participation helps as child and adult attendants also contribute to the stock of bowls collected for Empty Bowls, NeighborImpact's signature November fundraiser. A behemoth, slab clay-roller is used to prepare the clay for the pinch-pots. And self-described Central Oregon Community College 'kiln monkey' Diana Popp, along with Janet Mateson of The Art Station, provides assistance and decorative tools to the participating audience-potters.

The participation of the audience in making bowls for Empty Bowls, also helps the local resident potters focus even more on their own bowl-throwing while also competing for medals and prizes based around the 'biggest bowl' made from 5 pounds of clay, the best bowl made 'tandem' as judged by the audience, the best bowl made 'blindfolded' also judged by the audience, and the audience's choice of the best 'performance' while making a bowl. The prizes available to all bowl-makers range from gift certificates to local coffee shops to free rentals from local sports equipment stores.

While the motivation to get recognition or prizes may be one engine for making lots of bowls, the ultimate goal of each Pottery Throw-A-Thon is to get enough bowls made in time for Empty Bowls – bringing money to NeighborImpact's Food Program. Up to now, 250 bowls have been thrown and trimmed, while at least 600 are still needed.

The second Pottery Throw-A-Thon to get more bowls will be on Friday, August 3rd, from 6 - 9 p.m., at the Old Mill Quarter (550 SW Industrial Way in front of The Curiosity Shoppe & Ego Fashion). The event is free, corresponding with Downtown Bend's First Fridays. The public is invited to: participate in bowl-making; support the professional potters; visit The Curiosity Shoppe (one of the event's sponsors) for snacks or wine, and just come-out for a good cause – NeighborImpact's food program, the ultimate beneficiary.

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A 'Trimming Day' follows the evening of competitions. It will be on Saturday, - from 10 until 2 pm. Any individuals interested in volunteering at the event, either in the evening or the day after, can contact Media, Events and Volunteers Specialist, 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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