



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK TO HOST 2010 EMPTY BOWLS: A FEAST OF UNDERSTANDING**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania will hold the ninth annual Empty Bowls: A Feast of Understanding on October 23, 2010 from 6 to 9 pm. The event will take place at the Food Bank warehouse at 2045 Harvest Way, near the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and St. Elmo Street in Allentown. With a harvest theme, the evening will feature an informal meal, a silent auction, and music by The BC Combo. The event, sponsored by Bank of America, raises money and awareness for Second Harvest's fight to end hunger and also gives partygoers an idea of the day-to-day operations of the program.

The fare for this year's Empty Bowls will include a simple buffet dinner of three varieties of chili, chicken pot pie, salad, and an assortment of breads and desserts prepared by volunteer staff of the Sodexo Dining Services.

The idea for Empty Bowls is to remind people of the hunger in the world today by serving a meal of soup and bread, similar to what would be available at a soup kitchen. During the meal, Second Harvest will host a silent auction of decorative bowls donated by local artists and patrons. Several of this year's bowls have been donated by highly regarded artists, including Eric Claypoole, Charles Sorrels, and Susan Ward. There are also a number of gift bowls for sale that feature hundreds of dollars in donated goods, services, and gift certificates from area retailers.

The evening will culminate with a spectacular fireworks display at 9pm. Courtesy of Celebration Fireworks, the display will be visible from a considerable distance. The public is cordially invited to watch and celebrate as Second Harvest commemorates its 28-year history of fighting hunger. Tickets are available at \$60 each. For more information, please contact Sharon Hall, Development Coordinator, Second Harvest Food Bank at 610-434-0875, extension 3307.

Members of the 2010 Empty Bowls event committee, in addition to committee-chair Linda Epstein, are Jane Altobelli, Pat Beldon, Susan Bennett, Barbara Bigelow, Connie Boyle, Denise Sam Cali, Laraine Demshock, Arjana Etchason, Paul Fite, Kathleen Forte, Chantal Fulton, Mary Gedney, Erica Hyman, Lynne Khubchandani, Carol Koenig, Suzanne Lyons, Jo Jo Muir, Tracy Roth, Rita Scheller, Rachel Strauss, Sheryl Strelecki, Heather Strencosky, and Lynda Somach.

### **About Second Harvest Food Bank**

Second Harvest Food Bank distributes food and grocery product to more than 63,000 people each month through a six-county network of more than 200 member agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and child care, rehabilitation and senior citizen centers. The Food Bank also serves as an advocate for food assistance programs for people with low income and as a source of education and training for people working to improve food availability and nutrition to those in need. Second Harvest Food Bank is a program of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) and a member of Feeding America, (formerly named America's Second Harvest), the nation's food bank network and largest hunger relief organization.

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