



The Open Door
Julie LaFontaine, President and CEO
28 Emerson Ave.,
Gloucester, MA 01930

Media Contact: Kelsey Bode
Email: kelsey.bode@foodpantry.org
Phone: 978-283-6776 x 226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 7, 2022

Local Groups Paint for Empty Bowl *To Go* 2.0



Manchester Memorial fourth grade student Miles Harrison helps preschool student Quinn Reishtein paint a bowl. (Photo Courtesy of Claudette Yutkins)

MANCHESTER– Preschool and fourth grade students at Manchester Memorial Elementary School recently teamed up to put their creative talents to use, and painted bowls for The Open Door Empty Bowl *To Go 2.0* fundraiser.

The annual fundraiser will be held as a drive-thru for the second time this year due to the pandemic.

“There’s a special sense of community that comes from joining together and using your creativity to help someone else,” President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. “The bowls serve as a reminder that somewhere, someone’s bowl is empty, but with a paintbrush, a little imagination, and a desire to help, you can support a fundraiser that puts fresh, healthy food in the hands of your neighbors.”

In 2021, The Open Door provided **1.83 million pounds** of food to **8,516 people** from **4,176 families**. Empty Bowl *To Go 2.0* supports programs of The Open Door including its **Mobile Market** and **Summer Meals for Kids** programs. Last year, the Mobile Market distributed **179,053 pounds** of food to underserved neighborhoods, senior centers, housing authorities, and schools. The new Farmers Truck will provide further expansion of the Mobile Market program into additional locations with identified needs. In 2021, the Summer Meals for Kids program provided more than **30,000 meals** to local children.

Students at Manchester Memorial painted 25 bowls for the Empty Bowl *To Go 2.0* event slated for May 7.

“We just had a great time,” said Manchester Memorial Art Teacher Claudette Yutkins. “They were really happy to give something to help others.”

Yutkins said students in particular enjoyed painting designs in the bottom of their bowls, to be enjoyed as a “surprise” when the user finishes their meal. One group of students painted a smiley face, for example.

“It brought the whole project together,” Yutkins said. “They are trying to do something to make someone else happy—it was just cute.”

Several area colleges and schools, community organizations, businesses, clubs and private groups have stepped up to paint bowls for the fundraiser, including:

- Endicott College Students
- Gordon College Students
- The Academy at Penguin Hall
- O’Maley Innovation Middle School
- Manchester Memorial School
- Pingree School
- Shore Country Day School
- Ipswich Rotary
- Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce
- Institution for Savings
- 4H Rabbit and Cavy Club

- Gloucester Elks
- Happy Valley

- First Congregational Church of Essex
- Lisa Vincent Book Club
- Island Garden Club
- Members of the community

Please note: All slots for painting bowls for the 2022 fundraiser have been filled.

Additionally, many local artists, potters and public officials have painted bowls for the Empty Bowl Silent Auction, set to go online for the month of May.

Empty Bowl *To Go 2.0* will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 4-6 p.m. at The Open Door at 28 Emerson Ave. Appointments will be required and available to be scheduled once pay-what-you-can ticket sales go live on April 1 at [FOODPANTRY.org](https://www.foodpantry.org).

About The Open Door

The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger in our community. We use practical strategies to connect people to good food, to advocate on behalf of those in need, and to engage others in the work of building food security.

Founded in 1978, The Open Door is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit and community food resource center for low-income residents of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Essex, Ipswich, Hamilton, Boxford, Rowley, Topsfield, and Wenham. In 2021, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 8,516 people from 4,176 households through the distribution of 1.83 million pounds of food.

For more information, visit [FOODPANTRY.org](https://www.foodpantry.org).

###



Manchester Memorial Preschool student Sebastian Ochs, left, paints a bowl with help from fourth grade student, Makani Mitchell. (Photo Courtesy of Claudette Yutkins)