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Local Groups Paint for Empty Bowl To Go 2.0

Editorial Staff

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

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.

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.”

“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.

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

Students from Endicott College, Gordon College, The Academy at Penguin Hall, O’Maley Innovation Middle School, Manchester Memorial School, Pingree School, Shore Country Day School, the Ipswich Rotary, Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, the Institution for Savings, 4H Rabbit and Cavy Club, Gloucester Elks, Happy Valley, First Congregational Church of Essex, Lisa Vincent Book Club, and Island Garden Club.

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).

We are always interested to learn about news happening in Cape Ann. [Click here to let us know what is going on around your part of town.](#)

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

Drop-Off Food Drive Benefiting Open Door Food Pantry

Gobble Up The Good

Editorial Staff