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HAYC3, HOOSICK FALLS HIGH SCHOOL, AND ST. MARY'S ACADEMY WORK TOGETHER TO RAISE FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

HAYC3 partners with many groups in the Hoosick area for the benefit of community causes, and we are particularly proud to co-sponsor with Hoosick Falls High School (HFCS) and St. Mary's Academy (SMA) the Empty Bowls event on Friday, January 30, 6:00-8:00pm, in The Keep at The Armory in Hoosick Falls. All of the proceeds from Empty Bowls will be donated directly to local organizations that "feed Hoosick." This year's donations will go to support St. Mark's community dinners, Immaculate Conception's holiday food baskets, and efforts by HACA to feed our neighbors throughout the year.

"Last year, Meg Conner, (the ceramics teacher at HFCS), initiated and led the school's efforts to create 170 ceramic bowls that sold during our first Empty Bowls event. It was no easy task to create that many bowls but she's managed to inspire the students and get it done. And the bowls were beautiful," said Aelish Nealon, HAYC3 Executive Director.

This year, Ms. Conner and her students held a Bowl-a-thon where they created almost 200 ceramic bowls for this year's event.

HAYC3 coordinates the moving parts of the event, including organizing the details of how the event will look and how it will work successfully, donating the spaces for the art, music, and food, coordinating the serving and clean-up, "connecting the dots" between HFCS, SMA, and others community groups, restaurants, and individuals who have graciously offered to donate pots of soup, and providing publicity. HAYC3 staff and volunteers are happy to work with the various groups for this important cause.

"This event also helps raise people's awareness about hunger both locally and globally," said Patti Zilinskas, HAYC3 Community Liaison. "And we love the idea of using art to make a difference in the community," she added.

SMA has been in on the project from the beginning, as well. Middle School students will be making soup under the guidance of Lisa Adrion, SMA's Lunch Program Manager and *chef extraordinaire*.

"It's really nice to see that young people care about a cause and are willing to put some work into helping others in the community. This project hits on two of HAYC3's major goals as an organization: helping the community whenever needed, and providing our kids with positive, meaningful, enjoyable things to do," said Amanda Haar, HAYC3 volunteer and former Community Coalition chair.

For \$10, event attendees can choose a bowl and have it filled with soup, with a side of bread. "After your bowl is emptied, student volunteers will wash it and you can take it home as a reminder that there are empty bowls all over the world and you are helping to make a positive difference."

In conjunction with the Empty Bowls event, the HFCS Jazz Band will perform at the Owls Nest 6:30-7:30pm.

If you have any questions about this Empty Bowls event, or for more information, contact HAYC3: Call **518-686-9050**, email contacthayc3@gmail.com, or visit <http://hayc3.org>.

About HAYC3: HAYC3 (Hoosick Armory, Youth Center, and Community Coalition) is a rural revival and community arts organization based in Hoosick Falls, New York. HAYC3's goal is to restore rural sustainability and drive economic development through art, culture, education, and health. We work toward these goals through being a community incubator, an art center, and a place of opportunity. The HAYC3 Armory is located at 80 Church Street, Hoosick Falls, NY; for more information, please call 518.686.9050 or visit the website at hayc3.org.