



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Youth-Led Empty Bowls Event Set for Feb. 15 to Support Hunger Relief**

For the 26th year, Empty Bowls Dinner in Placerville will offer the community a chance to gather, enjoy a delicious meal, and raise funds to fight hunger in El Dorado County and beyond. The event will take place on Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 3 to 6 pm at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in the Forni Building.

Guests will enjoy delicious soup and fresh bread served in a keepsake handmade ceramic bowl, donated by artists and schools from throughout the region. Coloma Celtic will provide entertainment with their upbeat Americana Celtic folk sounds, and vendor booths will offer educational materials about the issue of hunger and handmade and curated wares for purchase. Wine, beer, and a large selection of desserts will also be available for purchase.

The funds raised from this event will support organizations fighting food insecurity. The organizations chosen to be the beneficiaries this year are: Upper Room Dining Hall (Placerville), Hands4Hope Emergency Food Pantry (Placerville), El Dorado High School's Natural Resources Program - Garden Senior Project (Placerville), and Earth's Angels (Ghana).

Empty Bowls is a nationwide grassroots effort to fight hunger. The Placerville event is organized by Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference's after-school Empty Bowls Committee, consisting of 18 middle and high school youth, 6 of whom are leading the effort. The Committee also has the support of 11 adult mentors. This event was led for 23 years by the El Dorado Peace and Justice Community, with assistance for several years by Hands4Hope participants. In 2024, the event leadership transitioned to this youth-led Hands4Hope Committee, making this the third year that youth will manage all aspects of the event.

"It's exciting to work with fellow youth from throughout the region and adults from all walks of life to help an important cause," said Lily Hinkle, Project Manager and senior at Ponderosa High School. "Hunger is a serious issue, but the Empty Bowls Dinner is a joy-filled event. It takes hundreds of volunteers and the contributions of many ceramics artists and students, and we are grateful for all the support."

Tickets at the door are \$30 for adults with a \$5 discount for advance online purchase (ends February 13), \$15 for youth (ages 5 - 18) and free for children ages 4 and under. Sponsorships start at just \$150 and include tickets to the event. Tickets, sponsorships, and more information can be found on the event website at [hands4hopeyouth.org/emptybowls](https://hands4hopeyouth.org/emptybowls).

Hands4Hope – Youth Making A Difference is a nonprofit, youth-driven organization with the mission to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. It offers hands-on education and community outreach opportunities to youth from 6th through 12th grades through school-based and after-school programs in Sacramento and El Dorado counties. For more information visit: [hands4hopeyouth.org](https://hands4hopeyouth.org) or call (916) 294-7426.

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