

[Mesa](#)

Artists help fight hunger with Empty Bowls event in Mesa

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Angela Askey, a spokeswoman for Mesa Community [College](#), submitted this article.

For 20 years, Mesa Community College has hosted the annual Empty Bowls event. In 1992, the Art Department presented the idea as a way to support a nationwide movement for feeding the needy and homeless.

Ceramics faculty, staff and [students](#) at MCC work all year to create more than 2,000 bowls. They are assisted by students at the Mesa Arts Center and local artisans. It is held at both the MCC Southern and Dobson and Red Mountain campuses.

The public is invited to attend MCC's Empty Bowls. For a \$10 donation they can chose a handmade bowl and receive a meal of soup, bread and water or lemonade. Soups are donated by T.C. Eggington's, Pita Jungle and Red, White & Brew. Help "fight hunger one bowl at a time" by attending and picking out your own special bowl.

Empty Bowls will be 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus in the courtyard, Southern Avenue and Dobson Road. The Red Mountain Campus, 7110 E. McKellips Road, will host its Empty Bowls event the same times on Oct. 24.

Three artists have contributed close to 1,000 bowls for the events this year. Brian S. Asdell, Wen-Dan Lin and Alecia Zirigon are former MCC students who earned their bachelor's degrees and are working on their master's.

Asdell has been making bowls for four to eight hours each day and plans to work the event as well.

"I believe in the Empty Bowls event. There are so many people who go hungry. I think it is great artists can help the community by doing their art work," he said.

Wen-Dan Lin grew up in Taipei, Taiwan. He is currently completing a ceramic mural project at MCC. In 2009, 2011 and again this year, Dan has made more than 300 bowls. He enjoys participating as an artist and the challenge of making each bowl to be unique.

Zirigon, while working toward a [Bachelor of Arts](#) degree at ASU, decided to give ceramics at MCC a try.

"The event is one of the most incredible collaborations: talents of artists paired with a charity. It not only holds personal significance to me but is a great resource for students and those in need." she said.

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