

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Tina Brohlin
Communications & Marketing Manager
(806)350-1435 direct
(806)679-4159 cell
tina@hpfb.org

HIGH PLAINS
**FOOD
BANK**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

EMBARGO FOR RELEASE UNTIL FEB. 15, 2019

AISD Hosts “Empty Bowls” Lunch to Raise Funds for Kids Cafe

Amarillo, TX (Feb. 11, 2019) – Amarillo Independent School District (AISD) will host its first-ever “Empty Bowls” luncheon Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the four AISD high school cafeterias to raise money for Kids Cafe, a Feeding America® Program that is offered by the High Plains Food Bank.

Participating AISD staff will attend lunch at their cluster high school cafeteria during the scheduled professional development day. For a suggested \$10 donation, attendees will receive a beef stew lunch and a keepsake bowl, hand-crafted by a local art student, as a reminder of all the bowls that go unfilled.

“One in four local children faces hunger, and teachers see firsthand how this impacts students’ learning and development every day in the classroom,” said Zack Wilson, executive director of High Plains Food Bank. “We are very grateful that AISD has chosen to support Kids Cafe and has partnered with us in the fight against local childhood hunger.”

In addition to raising funds, AISD’s “Empty Bowls” will activate students across the district in giving back to their community. Art students will contribute handcrafted commemorative bowls, and culinary arts students will provide bread. AISD will underwrite the cost of the ingredients for the beef stew, which Kids Cafe staff will prepare and deliver.

“By engaging our students in a districtwide service-learning project and our educators in an awareness campaign over hunger in our community, we are excited to be able to offer the creations of our students to our staff,” says Denise Blanchard, director of the community partnerships program for AISD.

If successful, AISD’s “Empty Bowls” will become an annual fundraiser and service-learning project to benefit HPFB’s Kids Cafe. Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to increase awareness of hunger and raise funds to support organizations that feed those in need.

For more information or to schedule media interviews, please contact Tina Brohlin, HPFB communications and marketing manager at (806)350-1435 or tina@hpfb.org

###

About High Plains Food Bank:

High Plains Food Bank's mission is to alleviate hunger in the Texas Panhandle. HPFB secures, processes, stores and distributes food to 190 partner agencies, across the top 29 counties in Texas. These food pantries provide a network to provide food assistance directly to the 1 in 7 local people who struggle with food insecurity, including 1 in 4 children. In 2018, HPFB distributed 8.25 million pounds of food, an amount equal to the all-time record set in 2017. To combat food insecurity and improve the overall health of clients we serve, HPFB provides a variety of community programs, including: Kids Cafe, Direct Mobile Distribution, a senior adult food program (CSFP), and nutrition education through The Garden at High Plains Food Bank. HPFB can also help individuals with applying for SNAP, CHIP, and Medicaid. In addition to fighting hunger and supporting better health, food banking decreases waste by distributing food that would otherwise go uneaten to people who need it. *High Plains Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.

About Kids Cafe:

Kids Cafe is a program of Feeding America, offered by High Plains Food Bank to at-risk children in our service area in need of daily, healthy meals. Kids Cafe confronts childhood hunger and obesity by providing meals and snacks that follow USDA recommended nutritional guidelines. Meals are provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

About Feeding America:

Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, we provide meals to more than 46 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry.