



Empty Bowls Santa Monica: Benefits Westside Food Bank

Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica (UCCSM) *hosts a community event to raise funds, friends and awareness for our ongoing fight against hunger in West LA.*

Santa Monica, CA (February 16, 2014)—Artists, hunger activists and foodies of all stripes will come together March 8 to raise funds for the [Westside Food Bank](#) and raise awareness of food insecurity. UCCSM presents Empty Bowls Santa Monica: for a \$20 donation members of the public will share a simple meal of soup and bread and take home a beautiful handmade ceramic bowl of their choosing, to remind them of empty bowls right here in our community.

Empty Bowls Santa Monica will take place in cooperation with local merchants, ceramics artisans and celebrity Chef Derek Walker. Walker is a winner of the Food Network's "Chopped" cooking competition series and was named a "Hero Chef." He is Executive Chef at the [Bread and Roses Café](#), which feeds the homeless five days a week, and works at the [St. Joseph Center](#), where he runs a [culinary training program](#) that helps struggling men and women find a career in the food industry.

The El Cholo Mexican restaurant in Santa Monica, Whole Foods Santa Monica, Trader Joe's and Bob's Market are also participating by providing soups and other items need for the meal. Dozens of local

potters, including volunteer event organizers Bettye Barclay and Ellen Levy, have handcrafted and donated unique soup bowls – true objets d’art.

Thanks to this generous alliance, 100% of the \$20 donations will benefit Westside Food Bank, a local nonprofit that serves 70 different local agencies providing food to those in need. Westside Food Bank finds that the need for food assistance in our area is up by more than 75% since the start of the recession. As the food bank warehouse for the Westside since 1981, they annually distribute more than 4.7 million pounds of food.

Chef Walker will be present to greet diners and discuss hunger issues on the Westside. Allison Griffith, a volunteer from Westside Food Bank, will be present to talk about their work on food insecurity.

UUCCSM adult and youth volunteers will host and facilitate the event, strengthening the church’s long-standing support of the Westside Food Bank. UUSM is proud to bring [Empty Bowls](#) to our community: an international grassroots effort to end hunger and food insecurity. Many millions have been raised and donated to hunger-fighting organizations across the globe.

The general public is welcome. Location: Forbes Hall, Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica, 1260 18th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ([map](#)). For more information contact Nancy, assistant@uusm.org, 310-829-5436 ext. 103. Free parking is available in the parking structure on 16th Street just south of Arizona. Handicap parking is available behind Forbes Hall.