



## FACT SHEET

# Empty Bowls Endowment Fund



## About the Fund

The Empty Bowls Endowment Fund was established to support local hunger relief projects in Monongalia County and to raise public awareness of food security and related issues.

Empty Bowls Monongalia holds an annual luncheon to address immediate needs within the county, and created the endowment to assure that Empty Bowls is also looking beyond the present and ensuring a long-term commitment to the citizens it serves.

Empty Bowls has maintained a “pass-through” fund with YCF since 2008 in which money raised by the organization goes directly to hunger relief programs. This new endowment fund was established to give annual donors to the luncheon another way to support the project long into the future, as well as to open up new donors who wish to support the mission.

Money contributed to the endowment fund will be invested to increase its value, with net income used for yearly grants to support the mission of Empty Bowls and serve as an extension of the annual event.

Empty Bowls is an independently organized worldwide project established by the nonprofit group Imagine/Render to support organizations that combat hunger and promote awareness about local hunger issues. Since its beginning as a high school arts project in Michigan in 1990, Empty Bowls events have raised millions of dollars toward ending hunger.

The basic premise of an Empty Bowls event is simple. Guests are served soup in a handmade ceramic bowl in exchange for a cash donation to fight hunger. They are asked to keep their bowl as a reminder that someone’s bowl is always empty, and to remind them that they have helped to alleviate hunger in the past and can continue to do so in the future.

The first Empty Bowls event in Morgantown was held in February 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church. Since that time, Empty Bowls has raised more than \$104,000 – including \$40,000 in 2012 alone – that has been distributed to 10 local food pantries making 21,100 distributions and to six meal programs serving 161,328 meals in 2012.

Information is available at [www.emptybowlsmon.org](http://www.emptybowlsmon.org).

## How Can I Donate?

Tax-deductible donations to the Empty Bowls Endowment and other funds managed by YCF are invested to increase their value, with net income from these investments paid out annually to meet the requirements and donor objectives of the various funds. While the net income is dispersed, the original endowments and any subsequent contributions to them remain intact and continue to grow from year to year.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are encouraged to contribute any amount of money to the endowment managed by YCF. Additional donations will help the endowment to grow over the years and will increase the net income used to provide yearly grants.

**To make a donation, or to get more information, contact Your Community Foundation, P.O. Box 409, Morgantown, WV 26507. Call us at (304) 296-3433 or visit our web site at [www.ycfwv.org](http://www.ycfwv.org).**