

Dear Friends,

It is with sincere regret that the Board of Directors of Empty Bowls Monongalia must announce the cancellation of the Soup and Bread Luncheon scheduled for February 25, 2023. The decision was reached after great consideration and discussion.

A number of issues led to the decision. The Luncheon requires a minimum of 500 volunteers to operate successfully. Unfortunately, we were unable to attain the level of staffing we needed. Restaurants and other businesses who have traditionally been supportive are not currently able to provide the 300+ gallons of soup and bread needed. Churches who have donated hundreds of cookies each year are still rebuilding their congregations following COVID.

To help raise additional funds for our community in lieu of the Luncheon, we are having a Bowl Sale at the Mountaineer Mall. Please join us on February 25 from 11am-3pm to purchase bowls that have been created by WVU Creative Arts Students and our local community members. The purchase price will be \$15 for one bowl and 2 for \$25.

Ticket purchasers may choose their best option about what to do with their ticket :

- Hold onto them until the 2024 Soup and Bread Luncheon. We will honor previously purchased tickets at the door.
- Use the ticket to purchase bowls at the Bowl Sale on February 25. Each \$15 ticket will be worth 1 bowl.
- Consider donating the ticket fee to help support our partner agencies who, daily, provide care and services to those suffering from hunger in Monongalia County.
- Return your ticket to the place of purchase for a full refund. You may also contact our office at [ebmon.office@gmail.com](mailto:ebmon.office@gmail.com) to arrange a refund.

The demand for food assistance continues to be at an all time high in Monongalia County. We ask for your continued financial support so we can provide the much needed funds to the 24 food pantries, meal programs and backpack programs who are serving our neighbors each and every day. We are working on creating alternative ways to secure funding to assist these programs and hope our community will respond with the generosity that has been present over the past years.

We are saddened by the combined circumstances that led to the cancellation of this year's luncheon. The good news is we are already in the planning stages for the 2024 Soup and Bread Luncheon, which promises to be bigger and better than ever!

Respectfully,

Trish Cendana  
President, Empty Bowls Board of Directors

Brian Diller  
Executive Director