



The Open Door
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 9, 2022

The Open Door Empty Bowl *TO GO* 2.0 Raises Record-Breaking \$164,000



Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0 included a “photo booth” along the drive-thru route. From left: (back) The Open Door Board Member and Gloucester Director of Veterans Services Adam Curcuru, volunteer Bo Abrams, volunteer Jessica Lanier (in car), volunteer Bethany Newman, and volunteer Jessica Margiotta.

(Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)

GLOUCESTER— Empty Bowl *TO GO 2.0* raised a record-breaking \$164,000 for The Open Door’s Mobile Market and Summer Meals for Kids programs this weekend, the most the established fundraiser has ever generated.

In all, 771 people attended the drive-thru event on Saturday, May 7.

“As the cost of living outpaces wages, the enduring message of “somewhere, someone’s bowl is empty” resonates deeply with many across the North Shore, and this weekend people turned out to give what they could to make sure that bowls would be full,” President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. “Proceeds from this popular community event will help fund the Summer Meals and Mobile Market programs and help connect people to good food where they live, gather, and learn.”

Participants wove through a drive-thru on Emerson Ave., brought to life by energetic volunteers waving handmade signs and displays along the route highlighting programs of The Open Door including the Mobile Market Farmer’s Truck, Second Glance, and Summer Meals for Kids. Participants also drove past the construction area for The Open Door Food and Nutrition Center, a capital building project to expand The Open Door facility and streamline operations.

The Open Door’s online auction, an extension of Empty Bowl *TO GO 2.0*, continues to be available at biddingowl.com/theopendoor and closes May 13. The auction features 42 one-of-a-kind bowls created by beloved Cape Ann artists and local elected officials.

Soup and chowder for the event was prepared by Captain Hook’s, Causeway Restaurant, Seaport Grille, J.T. Farnhams, George’s Restaurant and Bar, Lobsta Land, Minglewood Harborside, Sugar Magnolias, Turner’s Seafood, Willow Rest, and The Open Door kitchen team, including locally renowned chef Ken Duckworth.

Each bowl for the event was hand-painted by volunteers including professional artists, students, community groups and clubs, and local businesses. Once glazed, the bowls are fired by volunteer members of the community, schools, and community groups.

The bowls go home as a reminder: somewhere, someone’s bowl is empty.

More information about the event is available at FOODPANTRY.org/empty-bowl.

About The Open Door

The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger in our community. We use practical strategies to connect people to good food, to advocate on behalf of those in need, and to engage others in the work of building food security.

Founded in 1978, The Open Door is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit and community food resource center for low-income residents of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Essex, Ipswich,

Hamilton, Boxford, Rowley, Topsfield, and Wenham. In 2021, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 8,516 people from 4,176 households through the distribution of 1.83 million pounds of food.

For more information, visit FOODPANTRY.org.

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From left: volunteer Bo Abrams, The Open Door Pantry Assistant and Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0 participant Carolina Sosa, and volunteer Bethany Newman. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0 welcomed 771 drive-thru participants on Saturday.

(Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Volunteer and event sponsor Christina Comparato passes out bowls to drive-thru participants at Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



President and CEO Julie LaFontaine (left) and The Open Door Board Co-Chair Chris Barker at Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



More than 800 bowls were hand-painted by members of the community in advance of Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Volunteer Nina Goodick, center, and The Open Door Board Co-Chair Chris Barker, right, distribute bowls at Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Volunteer Mari Bergeron passes out fruit at the Mobile Market Farmers Truck stop at Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Volunteers pose for a photo moments before Empty Bowl TO GO 2.0 began.

(Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)