



Mason Community Grange No. 1680
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mason Empty Bowls fundraiser becomes virtual event in September

August 28, 2020 — The Mason Empty Bowls 2020 fundraiser for Warren County food pantries will move online as a monthlong virtual event from **Aug. 30 through Sept. 30, 2020**.

Members of Mason Community Grange No. 1680, who sponsor and host the traditionally spring event, postponed the benefit luncheon to Sept. 26 from April due to the health and safety concerns surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

“Unfortunately, those concerns still exist,” said Susan Chace, coordinator of Mason Empty Bowls 2020. “We decided to eliminate the luncheon portion of the event this year. We simply found no way to serve lunch inside the Mason Grange Hall and still guarantee the health and safety of volunteers and attendees.”

Instead, Chace said, the event will move onto a redesigned Mason Empty Bowls website, with an online auction, a Virtual Bowl Room full of 700 bowls donated by area artists and an online “Buy It Now” store offering additional pottery and handcrafted items.

“Our beneficiary food pantries need help more than ever because of challenges related to the pandemic,” Chace said. “We hope everyone will continue to support them even though we are not able to hold a luncheon this year. We still have hundreds of amazing works and auction items donated by the generous artists, crafts people and businesses in our area.”

Mason Empty Bowls is one of thousands of Empty Bowls events hosted worldwide each year to help combat hunger and food insecurity. This year, all Mason Empty Bowls proceeds will benefit seven food pantries and one volunteer produce garden that every month help feed thousands of residents in the Carlisle, Franklin, Kings Local, Lebanon, Little Miami, Loveland, Mason, Springboro and Waynesville school districts.

The primary beneficiaries of Mason Empty Bowls 2020 are the two largest food pantries in Warren County: the Lebanon Food Pantry and The Pantry at Franklin Area Community Services (FACS). Six secondary beneficiaries are Hope in Action’s Giving Garden, which supplies fresh produce to the Kings Local, Mason and Lebanon food pantries; Kings Local Food Pantry; Mason Food Pantry; the Loveland Interfaith Effort (L.I.F.E.) Food Pantry; Little Miami Food Pantry in Morrow; and the Waynesville Food Pantry.

Virtual Mason Empty Bowls 2020 begins with an online Silent Auction. Participants can preview the auction items **Aug. 30 through Sept. 5**. Bidding will be held **8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 6, through 10 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14**. The Virtual Bowl Room and Buy It Now store will be open **Sept. 6-30** on the Mason Empty Bowls website (<https://www.masonemptybowls.org>).

Anyone can bid in the auction and shop at the Mason Empty Bowls Buy It Now store. Virtual attendees can step into our Virtual Bowl Room and select the bowl of their choice for a \$20 donation to the Mason Empty Bowls 2020 beneficiaries.



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Before the spring luncheon was postponed, Mason Empty Bowls 2020 raised \$5,500 through advanced ticket sales and cash donations from co-sponsors Truepoint Wealth Counsel, LLC; the Warren County Farm Bureau; and Mason Boat Storage, LLC. Those funds were distributed to the primary beneficiaries in April and May.

“Everyone who purchased a ticket for the luncheon, originally scheduled April 4th, will receive a coupon code that they can use to select a bowl from the Virtual Bowl Room,” Chace said.

All auction baskets, bowls and purchased items can be picked up at the Mason Grange Hall during scheduled drive-through times from **Sept. 19 - Oct. 10**. At the time of purchase, participants will be asked to print their receipt and sign up online for a pick-up time appointment. Participants must show their receipt to pick up their items. No items will be shipped.

“We still hope to raise a total of \$16,000 to \$18,000 this year for the food-insecure residents in our communities, so we hope our supporters will embrace this virtual event,” Chace said. “It will be a great opportunity for people to help the food pantries while finding an amazing hand-crafted treasure or gift.

“A few participants of past Mason Empty Bowls event are planning to host their own small gatherings of friends and family, either online or in their homes, to view and shop the Mason Empty Bowls website,” she said.

Since 2015, Mason Empty Bowls has raised and distributed more than \$65,000 to food pantries and other organizations that assist hungry and food-insecure residents of Warren County.

For more information about the virtual Mason Empty Bowls, please visit the Mason Empty Bowls website (<https://www.masonemptybowls.org>) and Facebook pages.

If your business or organization would like to become a co-sponsor of Mason Empty Bowls 2020, please email MasonOHGrange@gmail.com for more information.