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14TH ANNUAL 'EMPTY BOWLS' EVENT PRESENTED BY KROGER RAISES \$156,000 FOR THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

Signature luncheon event will provide nearly half a million meals to North Texans in need

DALLAS (March 11, 2013) – The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) today announces it has raised \$156,396 from its 14th annual Empty Bowls event held on March 1, 2013 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The signature luncheon event, **presented by Kroger**, drew a crowd of more than 1,760 guests and will provide 469,188 meals to those in the North Texas community struggling with hunger.

In 2012, the luncheon raised more than \$153,094 for the Food Bank. This year's goal was to raise more than \$150,000 with 1,700 in attendance, and NTFB reached its goal and bested last year's fundraising efforts by five percent.

“This year's Empty Bowls event was the best we've had since its inception,” said **Jan Pruitt, president and CEO of the North Texas Food Bank**. “The Food Bank would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success. Many families, children and seniors we serve will greatly benefit from the generosity of those in our community who are helping us in our fight against hunger.”

As part of the event, guests were invited to participate in the Empty Bowls People's Choice Award and vote for their favorite soup, bread or dessert. Each vote cost one dollar with a minimum of five votes, and the restaurant or purveyor with the most votes will be awarded the 2013 Empty Bowls People's Choice trophy. **The 2013 Empty Bowls People's Choice Award voting recently closed, and the big winner is Bread Winners Café for their Chicken Enchilada Soup with Chili Jack Tostada!**

Below is a list of all the restaurants, sponsors, partners and donors who participated in the 14th annual Empty Bowls luncheon event:

Restaurants and Food Retailers: Aw Shucks, Blue Mesa Grill, Bread Winners Café and Bakery, Café Brazil, Celebration Market and Restaurant, The Common Table, Cook Hall, Dining at the Meyerson, Empire Baking Company, Kroger, la Madeleine, McAlister's Deli, My Fit Foods, North Texas Food Bank Community Kitchen, Panera, ReMARKable Affairs Catering, Royal Cup Coffee, Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House, West End Pub and Wolfgang Puck Catering.

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Sponsors: Presenting Sponsor - Kroger; Official Go Green Sponsor - VHA.

Partners: Andrews Kurth LLP, Dean Foods Foundation, Grant Thornton, Nationwide Insurance, and USMD Physician Services.

Donors: Trinity Ceramics and countless potters, wood turners and artisans, WFAA, WBAP, City Color, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Dr. Delphinium, Grant Thornton, Kroger, Young Strings of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Sloan & Associates, The Meyerson, and Doc Strange Images.

"Kroger has an unyielding commitment to fighting hunger in the North Texas community," said **Gary Huddleston, consumer affairs director for Kroger**. "Our support of the luncheon was a fun way to help the North Texas Food Bank fundraise for its mission while allowing the public to enjoy delicious soup, dessert and bread. In 2012, Kroger's fresh food donation program created one million meals for deserving families, seniors and children in the area, and we look forward to growing our partnership with the Food Bank in 2013."

John and Darlene Williams, former owners of Trinity Ceramics, came to the NTFB 14 years ago to help facilitate this event in Dallas after seeing it flourish in other markets. Each year they organize local and national artists who create and donate bowls for the event. The popular event has grown every year since its creation in 1999.

The Food Bank would like to thank Kroger and all of the restaurants, partners, sponsors, donors and guests for making the 14th annual Empty Bowls event a huge success.

About North Texas Food Bank

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit relief organization which leads the fight against hunger with knowledge-based strategies to distribute donated, purchased, and prepared foods through a network of feeding programs in 13 North Texas counties. NTFB supports the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through research, education, advocacy and strategic partnerships. In FY 2012, NTFB provided access to more than 47 million nutritious meals. Founded in 1982, the year 2012 marked NTFB's 30th anniversary. NTFB is a member of Feeding America (feedingamerica.org).

About Kroger

The Kroger Southwest Division operates 211 stores, 202 pharmacies and 112 fuel centers in Texas and Louisiana and is part of one of the nation's largest retail grocery chains serving customers in 31 states. For more than 125 years, Kroger has emphasized a customer-first approach to providing quality products, value pricing, outstanding service and an exceptional shopping experience. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, the supermarket retailer is dedicated to making a difference in the communities it serves by supporting hunger relief, education, health and wellness, and diversity programs. Resulting from the retailer's philanthropic commitment, *Forbes* magazine lists Kroger as the most generous company in America. For more information about Kroger, please visit www.kroger.com, [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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