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## Mandalas serve as reminders of school's Empty Bowls event

By **DIANE M. REY**, For The Capital

Pat Clubine, art teacher at St. Anne's School of Annapolis, has always been fascinated by mandalas.

Loosely translated from the classical Indian language of Sanskrit, "mandala" means circle. Circle-within-a-circle patterns can be found throughout nature, from planets orbiting the sun to the nucleus inside a cell. Eastern religions and Native American culture, among others, have long embraced the shape as a symbol of the integrated nature of all things.

Last week Pat gathered students and their families around the art room to create mandalas as an extension of the school's fifth annual Empty Bowls night to benefit the hungry.

An independent Episcopal school of 266 students in preschool through eighth grade, St. Anne's has raised about \$10,000 in donations over the years from the event to support the Light House shelter in Annapolis.

"It's a good way to raise awareness of hunger issues locally," said Pat, whose sister and brother-in-law taught art at a high school in Michigan where the Empty Bowls initiative began in 1990. Since then, schools around the country have picked up on it. "It's one of those grassroots programs that just took off," Pat said.

The cafeteria at St. Anne's, on Arundel on the Bay Road, was transformed into a mock soup kitchen for the evening, with seventh-graders taking the lead in setting up and serving as part of their community service commitment. About 220 people attended the two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



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St. Anne's School of Annapolis seventh-graders, from left, Savannah Andersen, Amelia Maurer, Katie Dennis, Victoria Hiller and Marcella Capuco are shown with some of the 300 clay bowls attendees at the school's "Empty Bowls" dinner used to help create mandalas, or circular patterned mosaics, as a reminder that hunger never ends.

Donations at last week's event benefitted the Light House shelter in Annapolis.

The Annapolis Whole Foods Market supplied the chicken noodle soup and bread, while parents brought salads and the faculty provided cookies. "It is a real community effort," said Effie Cottman Dawson, director of communications for St. Anne's.

Haley DeMaria, who chairs the school's parents association, attended with her sons, James, 8, and Edward, 6. "It's a great opportunity to share with them how fortunate they are to have a meal every night," she said.

In years past, students made bowls from clay that were fired in the art room's kiln for attendees to take home as a symbolic reminder of the event. But with a surplus of about 300 bowls from prior years, Pat came up with a hands-on art project for this year instead.

Attendees were directed to the art room where they picked out a bowl to be glued along with others to several large square tiles to make mandalas in the form of mosaic panels. The panels will be hung throughout the school, and one will be given to the Light House shelter for display in its new facility on Hudson Street. The foundation for the \$8.5-million building was poured earlier in the day. It will eventually replace the shelter's current location at 206 West St.

Pat said each panel of concentric circles is a reminder that hunger never ends. "It's also a symbol of unity and of continuing to serve and support those around us."

Light House Board President Elizabeth Kinney and LaMorris Beatty, who has benefitted from shelter programs, addressed the crowd. In addition to helping the hungry locally, fifth-graders set up a "Hope for Haiti" booth and raised \$330 to aid the earthquake-ravaged country.

"The school does a really good job of helping the students understand social responsibility," said former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, who attended the event with his wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Gabrielle, 7, a second-grader at St. Anne's.

As she queued up for soup, Christie Pavlick, 12, of Edgewater, said the event was "fun and good because we're raising money to help people who need food."

While students bustled about, Fran Lukens, head of the school, remarked, "They all look a little taller on nights like this when they get to rise to the occasion."

Aleph Bet Jewish Day School on Spa Road also held an Empty Bowls Night Jan. 26 which raised \$780 for the Light House shelter and Mazon (meaning "food" in Hebrew), a national Jewish hunger relief effort. About 90 people turned out for the third annual event, said Nan Jarashow, head of the school.

Heritage Baptist Church is hosting a similar Empty Bowls event, its fourth annual SOUPer Bowl Lunch for the Light House shelter, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday - Super Bowl Sunday - in the church's fellowship hall at 1740 Forest Drive.

The public is invited and admission is free, but donations are requested to benefit the shelter.

For more information, call 410-263-6680 or visit [www. heritagebaptistonline.com](http://www.heritagebaptistonline.com).