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Triton College

For immediate release: **March 22, 2023**

**Triton College HIA Students Participated in  
“Empty Bowls” at Oak Park and River Forest High School**  
*Money Raised Supports Organizations to Fight Hunger*

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – The Triton College Hospitality Industry Administration (HIA) students participated in the fundraiser “Empty Bowls” on March 3 at Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRF).

“Empty Bowls” is a bowl-of-soup fundraiser hosted at OPRF according to Bridget Doherty, an art instructor and teacher sponsor for “Empty Bowls” at OPRF. For one night, community members are invited to enjoy delicious soup in a handmade, glass bowl, with all proceeds going to organizations that fight hunger. OPRF pottery students along with local artists created the handmade bowls, while local restaurants and businesses donate the soup and bread to fill them.

This was a significant year for the fundraiser because it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the first in-person “Empty Bowls” event in three years due to the pandemic.

“This year, we raised over \$17,000,” said Doherty. “We made over 1,000 bowls for this fundraiser and had over 800 attendees. This is the largest turnout we’ve ever had and have raised the most money!”

Chef Manny Uribe, Hospitality Department chairperson, said six students from the HIA 277 Catering Management class participated in “Empty Bowls.” The students made broccoli cheddar, roasted butternut squash and pozole soups for the occasion, learning how to create vast quantities of soup for a large amount of people.

Uribe noted the students mastered how to navigate an off-site catering event and how to multiply a simple soup recipe for a sizable crowd of people.

“We had to make six gallons of soup for each recipe,” said Uribe. “Our students had to learn how to develop the recipe, experiment with ingredients and transfer the soup from one kitchen to another.”

Triton catering student Luis Levia of Maywood used his own vegan butternut squash soup recipe. He added apples for extra taste.

“I like volunteering,” said Levia. “I’ve learned a lot about etiquette and how to become better in the kitchen from this experience.”

Steven Sabella of Elmwood Park had similar sentiments.

“It’s all about teamwork and giving back,” he noted. “With a full staff of people working together, we can do it.”

Doherty felt the Triton catering students made a major impact and were a vital component of the “Empty Bowls” fundraiser. She said the Triton students set an example for the OPRF students when it came to serving the food and engaging with attendees.

“We hope to have a larger variety of soups next year,” said Uribe. “We want more recipes based on our students’ cultures and backgrounds.”

All proceeds from “Empty Bowls” will be donated to three organizations that fight hunger at local, national and global levels: Housing Forward in Maywood, Beyond Hunger in Oak Park and Global Alliance for Africa in Chicago.

For more information about Triton’s HIA Program, please contact [manueluribeepin@triton.edu](mailto:manueluribeepin@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3624.

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#### **ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE**

Triton College is a two-year college dedicated to helping members of the 25 Western Cook County communities in our district and beyond to achieve educational, professional and personal success. Located in River Grove, Ill., Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton also holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton’s dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 14,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://www.triton.edu/>