

COCAAN Hosts 3rd Annual Pottery Olympics

by K_Guice

Local artisans will donate their time and vie for gold all in the name of charity at the 3rd Annual Pottery Olympics.

The event, hosted by COCAAN (Central Oregon Community Action Agency Network), is a crucial pre-fundraising event to produce the bulk of 1,000 bowls for COCAAN's Empty Bowls charity.

The Pottery Olympics will be held in conjunction with Art Walk on August 4, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Old Mill Quarter on SW Industrial Way in front of The Curiosity Shoppe and Blue Spruce Gallery.

A shuttle is available from downtown to the event and back again.

"This event is designed to encourage the public to be educated about how we come up with the bowls for Empty Bowls," said Kalisha Fleischmann, the media and events specialist for COCAAN.

The event is free and the public is invited to come down and watch the potters as they compete to make the largest bowl, a bowl with no hands, create a bowl blindfolded and a make a tandem creation using kids from the audience.

"It's fun to work side by side with so many artists at one time, and to have the audience cheering us

on," said John Kinder, the reigning champion.

Bob Sant agrees. Also a gold medalist in last summer's competition, he is excited to be participating again this year. "It's great to have that much creative energy in one place," he said.

Sant, Kinder and more than a dozen other potters give of their time in support of COCAAN's mission to empower individuals and families to succeed and become active citizens in the community.

"The community has been instrumental in COCAAN's efforts to build success and change lives for Central Oregonians," Holly Hutton, COCAAN's Assistant Director said. "The Pottery Olympics is a fun way to for everyone to get involved -- artists, volunteers, and attendees all do their part."

Fleischmann says volunteers are still needed for this event and always welcome at COCAAN. "We are looking for volunteers to help the potters," she said. "And volunteers are always needed! we are always looking for people who want to help."

COCAAN's programs includes Head Start, weatherization, home repair, energy and rent assistance, financial skills building, savings programs, assisting parents to find child care, tutoring homeless children, providing emergency and transitional housing to homeless families, home buyer education and feeding the hungry.

The Pottery Olympics is sponsored by: Washington Mutual Bank, Fuqua Homes, Curiosity Shoppe, Cindercone Clay Co-op, PIP Printing, Horizon Broadcasting, The Source, Cascade A&E Magazine and Blue Spruce Gallery.

Potters and volunteers interested in donating their time and talent can contact Kalisha Fleischmann at 548-2380 ext 110.

Bend Weekly Newslink: www.cocaan.org

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