

YOUR GIFTS TO OUR NEIGHBORS ARE INCREDIBLE!



Chef Stephen inspiring young minds at Cook Inlet Academy

Your support has contributed so much to the total of 307,849 pounds of food the food bank has distributed so far this year! By sponsoring and hosting food drives and fundraisers, you've also helped give 5,852 meals to our neighbors through the Fireweed diner, over 93,000 pounds of food to direct services, and over 150,000 food to our partner agencies. Thank you all our amazing hosts, donors, and sponsors! You have an incredible impact on the success of our fundraisers and events. By supporting events, you are also supporting our community!



KENAI POTTERS' GUILD



The Food Bank has enjoyed a unique relationship with the Kenai Potters' Guild for a quarter of a century. Each year, local potters create one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls for our Soup Supper. All members of the Kenai Potters' Guild are encouraged to make at least 20 original vessels from clay, which are donated to the Food Bank for this annual event.

The process for making bowls takes time, practice, and patience. Each bowl starts as a 1.5 - 2 lb. lump of clay. That clay is transformed on the pottery wheel or as a slab of clay laid over a form and altered. After initially creating the bowl, it needs to dry for a few days to become leather hard, then the thrown bowl is trimmed on the outside and/or bottom. Now the bowl dries for several more days before it is ready for the first firing called a bisque firing, which heats to bowls to 1945 degrees Fahrenheit.

After the kiln cools, the bowls are removed, washed, and the bottoms are coated with melted wax. The next step involves hand-made glazes. The potter decides which glazes and how many to use for each bowl. The bowls are stored until there are enough to fill the kiln. The Potter's Guild's down-draft gas kiln can hold about 95 bowls at a time and reaches a temperature of a massive 2345 degrees Fahrenheit. This gas firing and cool down take another three days before we can open the door and see the results. So, every bowl is a labor of love, time, skill, and dedication to the cause.

Participants of the Soup Supper choose one of these works of art to take home in appreciation of their support of hungry people across the peninsula, and to remember this delightful evening. The Kenai Potter's Guild Potters are busy making hundreds of beautiful bowls for this year's Soup Supper on August 20, 5-9. Hope to see you there!