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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Madeira Students Give Back with Water Buffalos and Sandwiches**

Madeira seventh grade language arts, social studies, and art classes are working together to present the 7th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner Event; a student service-learning project centered on fighting poverty, hunger and homelessness.

The three-subject unit began with students reading two books in their Language Arts classes; *Start Something That Matters*, by Blake Mycoskie and *Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something That Matters* by Laurie Ann Thompson. Students broke into rotations to delve into ways they could make a difference through organizations helping to fight local and international poverty, homelessness and hunger. In Social Studies, the seventh graders researched facts and statistics on their group's chosen cause, to be used in awareness booths at the event where they share their research facts, and project details with attendees. Some of the organizations students have chosen to highlight this year include Hands Against Hunger, Matthew 25: Ministries, Bethany House, New Life Furniture Bank, The Care Center, and many others. One group is sponsoring a water buffalo through Heifer International, and one is making sandwiches at St. Francis-St. Joseph Catholic Worker House's Baloney Brigade. There are close to 20 organizations overall.

Two weeks before the event, each of the school's 126 seventh graders designed an invitation to the event, and glazed and fired a ceramic bowl in art class. The bowls are given to each family that attends the Empty Bowls dinner as a reminder of the empty bowls around the world.

At the dinner students provide salad, soup, and dessert in exchange for a \$5 donation per person or a \$15 donation per family. All proceeds go to the organizations they've selected that fight against poverty, homelessness, and hunger. During the evening each student takes three 30 minute shifts at the interactive booths, busing tables, performing music and speaking.

There will also be a 'take-a-way' at each booth - something attendees can keep to remember what they've learned from the students. "We're not only learning how to give back," Zoe Abroms explained. "We're learning how to give presentations to people." The community is invited to hear those presentations and enjoy dinner and music at the culmination of this annual service learning unit. The seventh annual Empty Bowl Dinner will be held Friday, December 7 from 5 – 7 PM at Madeira Middle School, located at 6612 Miami Avenue in Madeira.



Pictured are 2018 Empty Bowls committee members (front l to r):  
Jane Feichtner, Zoe Abroms Back row: Kylie Shinn, Madison Nahrgang,  
Annie Meyer, and Kennedy Cunningham