
There is a story about a man who left this earth and was taken on a tour of the inner realms. He was shown a room where he saw a large group of hungry people trying to eat dinner, but because the spoons that they were trying to eat with were longer than their arms, they remained frustrated. "This," his guide told him, "is hell." "That's terrible!" exclaimed the man; "Please show me heaven!" "Very well," agreed the guide, and on they went. When they opened Heaven's door, the man was perplexed to see what looked very much like the same scene: there was a group of people with spoons longer than their arms. As he looked more closely, however, he saw happy faces and full tummies, for there was one important difference: the people in Heaven had learned to feed each other.

In the fall of 1990, a high school art teacher decided to stand up and do something to help the fight against hunger. It started with raising money for a local food drive but evolved into a 16-year (and counting) project to fight hunger worldwide. It is called the Empty Bowls Project.

Retired art teacher John Hartom, along with wife Lisa Blackburn, were the founders of the project. The Empty Bowls Project raises awareness and money to help fight hunger around the world. Handmade ceramic bowls are donated or auctioned off by members of local communities, schools and sometimes celebrities.

Web resources:

<http://www.kidscanmakeadifference.org/Newsletter/nss2001e.htm>
www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/Lessons/6effigy.htm –

Address for the founders of empty bowls:

The Imagine Render Group, P.O. Box 167, Oxford, Michigan 48371
Imagineren@aol.com
