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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**3rd Annual Empty Bowl Project kicks off
with bowl making sessions at the Ocean City Center for the Arts**

OCEAN CITY, MD — Dec. 21, 2015 — The Empty Bowl Project is a unique opportunity to fight hunger locally. The 3rd Annual Empty Bowl Project, sponsored by First Shore Federal Bank, benefits the Diakonia food pantry and the programs of the Art League of Ocean City.

The Empty Bowl Project is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and a unique opportunity to use art in a way that helps the community. Empty Bowl events take place across the United States and a dozen other countries, and have raised millions of dollars for organizations to help fight hunger.

The public is invited to hand-make ceramic bowls during free bowl-making sessions in January and February at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St., bayside Ocean City. The bowl-making sessions lead up to the Soup Dinner on Saturday, March 19 at the Arts Center.

No experience is necessary at the bowl-making sessions, and all materials, including instruction, are free. The bowls are left at the Arts Center to be glazed and fired, and then used for the Soup Dinner. If bowl-makers want to keep their own bowls, there is a \$20 fee paid at the bowl-making session that includes a ticket to the Soup Dinner.

The one-hour bowl-making sessions begin on Jan. 5 and continue through Feb 16. Both daytime and evening sessions are available. A complete schedule of sessions is available on-line at www.artleagueofoceancity.org. Registration is encouraged by calling the Arts Center at 410-524-9433 or by registering on-line.

The Soup Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 19 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Arts Center. For a \$20 donation per bowl, those who attend will receive a handmade bowl that they may fill with delicious soup donated by local restaurants. There will also be breads, desserts, a cash bar, a silent auction and live music. Guests are asked to keep the bowl as a reminder of all of the empty bowls in the world.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, programs and community art events. The arts center is supported by memberships, corporate and civic funding, donations and sales of art.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

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EDITORS: Logo for the event is attached as well as a photo from last year's bowl making sessions. Schedule of bowl-making sessions is below.

SCHEDULE OF BOWL-MAKING SESSIONS:

Tuesday, Jan. 5	5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9	10-11 a.m. or 11:30-12:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 14	Noon-1 p.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19	1:30-2:30 p.m. or 3-4 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 25	5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 3	5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6	10-11 a.m. or 11:30-12:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 11	Noon-1 p.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb.16	5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.