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Life & Times

Serving up community



Michael Gooden, Pinkerton Academy art teacher, demonstrates how to make a bowl as Andrew Tanuma, 8, watches. Gooden was on hand demonstrating his pottery talents during last weekend's Potter's Bowl.

Soup's on at 13th annual Potter's Bowl

DERRY — Soups were simmering for a good cause.

The 13th annual Potter's Bowl was held Saturday, Jan. 27, giving soup lovers and community supporters a chance to come out to Pinkerton Academy to fill up on hearty soup, enjoy a night of friendship and to help those in need.

Tables were lined with colorful, handcrafted bowls as people lined up to choose their favorite. Then it was time to fill those bowls to help one local organization's mission to help others.

This was the third year the event was held at Pinkerton Academy in the school's freshman cafeteria, and was hosted by Community Caregivers of Greater Derry.

Community Caregivers works in the area to help elderly and disabled people live independently in their homes through a strong volunteer network. Volunteers offer light housekeeping, shopping, transportation to appointments and other tasks to those needing assistance.

The Potter's Bowl featured a menu of soups donated by local restaurants and businesses, as well as a big supply of pottery bowls created by local artists and art students.

The night also included raffles and silent auction featuring artisan-created items like jewelry, pottery, and paintings.

The Red Star Twirlers were also on hand to help serve up soup and dessert.

Many came out to support Caregivers and its mission to help those in the community. The organization, along with its Loaner's Closet, is located in Londonderry at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10.



Sally Goodwin of Londonderry picks out a bowl.



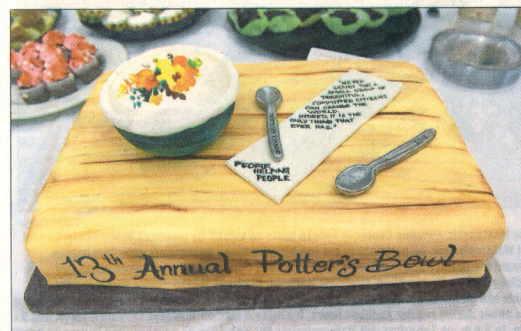
Denise Tedesco cuts the cake made and donated by Carina's Cakes.



Volunteer Jessica Sabbath of Nashua serves up a bowl of soup.



A large crowd gathered in the Pinkerton Academy freshman cafe for the 13th annual Potter's Bowl.



Every year a different cake is made and donated by Carina's Cakes for the annual Potter's Bowl event.



Morgan Lasonde of Methuen receives a bowl of soup.

2 Thursday, January 18, 2018 DERRY NEWS



Derry News file photo

The 13th annual Potter's Bowl to support Community Caregivers of Greater Derry is set for Saturday, Jan. 27, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Pinkerton Academy freshman cafeteria. The night includes soup, bread, a handcrafted bowl to take home, entertainment and pottery demonstrations. There will be soups provided by more than a dozen local restaurants and eateries. Tickets are on sale by calling 432-0877 or stop by the Caregivers office at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10 in Londonderry.

Potter's Bowl supports Community Caregivers of Greater Derry

DERRY — Soup's on once again for the annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser to benefit Community Caregivers of Greater Derry.

This year's event — the 13th annual — is set for Saturday, Jan. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pinkerton Academy's freshman cafeteria.

For a \$40 ticket, patrons can choose a handcrafted pottery bowl, created and donated by New Hampshire artisans.

For children under 12, admission is \$10.

There will be more than a dozen types of soups donated from area restaurants along with breads, desserts and beverages. Patrons can continue to fill their bowls as often as they'd like throughout the evening and then take their bowl home.

In addition to soup, the night features a pottery wheel demonstration from 4 to 5 p.m.; 50/50 raffle, and a silent auction with items donated by artisans all over New England including oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, photography, jewelry,

wooden crafts and much more.

Entertainment will be provided by Simply the Best Entertainment and the Red Star Twirlers will be helping serve throughout the night.

The Potter's Bowl is a major fundraiser for the Caregivers, working in this area through a network of volunteers to support the elderly and disabled.

The organization's mission is to help clients remain independent and safe in their homes as volunteers step in to help with transportation, shopping, light cleaning and other tasks.

Caregivers also has a Loaner's Closet at its Londonderry location, with many items available to loan out including wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, and other items for medical or health-care needs.

Tickets for the Potter's Bowl are now on sale and are available by calling Caregivers at 432-0877, ext. 1, or stop by the office in Londonderry at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10.

Thank



You

Caregivers Potter's Bowl Serves Up Soup and Service

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Charity comes in all forms, and sometimes it can be found in a simple bowl of soup. For the last 12 years, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry has hosted their annual "Potter's Bowl" to raise money to continue providing services for disabled and elderly locals in need. This year it will be on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria.

The Potter's Bowl offers patrons that beloved cold-weather comfort food, hot fresh soup served in bowls crafted by local vendors. The bowls are hand made and donated by artisans, some of whom come to the event.

"We get pottery bowls from artists all over the state," said Julie Levesque of Community Caregivers. She exclaimed that "it's really nice" when the potters come to the dinner. "They set up a table and people choose a bowl with the price of a ticket." There are even bowls just for kids to make the event more family friendly.

After picking their pre-

ferred piece of pottery, attendees can fill up on over a dozen varieties of soup from 14 local restaurants. Even the Pinkerton Academy Culinary Arts program gets involved. Chef Keith Desjardin said 10 to 12 of his students created a menu and will be serving once the soup's on. Those who enjoyed the Astro Café's butternut squash bisque last year can look forward to a tasty revival.

Students in the program must participate in a catering event like the Potter's Bowl as a course requirement. Desjardin said it "helps them practice" working on large scale events from set up to take down. The goal for this event was to have the students plan and execute a recipe that can feed up to 200 people.

"It's a big experience for them," DeJardin explained.

Community Caregivers is hoping to entice attendees with more than just some chicken soup for the soul, though. Michael Gooden, also from Pinkerton Academy, will be doing a live pottery wheel demonstration before dinner and DJ Sharon Deluca will be playing music

throughout the evening. Levesque said there will be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. Artists from all over New England have donated a variety of goods to the auction, including art, photos, jewelry and hand carved wooden crafts.

"Basically everything's donated," said Levesque. Local grocers donate gift cards to put towards supplies like gluten-free breads and balloons, while florists bring in flower arrangements for the tables. Volunteers also come in and help set up the event.

"These people want to do it," remarked Levesque. "The community gets together. It's a great night."

Through the ticket sales, raffle and auction, Levesque said Community Caregivers is hoping to take in between \$8,000 to \$10,000. That's roughly what the group made during last year's Potter's Bowl.

"It's our biggest fundraiser," said Levesque.

The money raised during the Potter's Bowl goes towards keeping Community Caregivers running by funding its operation budget. The organization is able to provide constant community care through the efforts of its

five staff and dedicated volunteers. Levesque said they have everyone from middle schoolers to adults donate whatever time they can to the elderly and disabled clients of the nonprofit.

The volunteers do a variety of things, like provide transportation to and from medical and dental appointments, to doing small household chores or yard work. There's even a "Loaner's Closet" of medical equipment from canes and commodes to blood pressure kits and bed pans that can be borrowed for free.

The volunteers are matched to the clients by Executive Director Cindee Tanuma, who started the Potter's Bowl 13 years ago. She discovers the likes and dislikes of the clients and volunteers, then pairs them up accordingly. For example, if a young volunteer is thinking of entering the service, he or she would likely be paired with a veteran who wants to reminisce and encourage the next generation to enlist.

"It's pretty rare a match doesn't work out," said Levesque. She explained that Tanuma really takes the common interests into consideration because "it tends to



Handmade bowls of all shapes and sizes will greet attendees at the annual Caregivers of Greater Derry Potter's Bowl on Saturday, Jan 27.

be a long-term thing."

Levesque and her fellow staff look forward to the Potter's Bowl because it sheds a light on their mission while bringing the community together. "They know we're doing good things," she said.

Anyone who wants to sample some soup for a cause can come to the Potter's Bowl from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan.

27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry.

Tickets are \$40 each for adults and \$10 each for children under 12. They can be bought by calling Community Caregivers at (603) 432-0877 x1 or by visiting their office during the work day at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10 in Londonderry.

Community Caregivers Host 13th Annual Potter's Bowl at Pinkerton



For the thirteenth consecutive year, the Community Caregivers of Greater Derry hosted their annual "Potter's Bowl" on Saturday evening, Jan. 27 at Pinkerton Academy. The organization is celebrating 30 years of service to the communities of Derry, Chester, Londonderry, Windham, Sandown, Danville and Hampstead.

This year featured 14 soups donated for sampling from local restaurants and hundreds of pots donated for attendees to take home from Exeter Fine Crafts, Lorraine Bauman Pottery, The Voice of Clay, Rock Pond Pottery, and the art students at Pinkerton Academy, Londonderry High School and Timberlane Regional High School.

Pinkerton Academy Art Teacher Michael Gooden also

attended the event to demonstrate the art of throwing a pot.

Also on hand, volunteering their time, were the Red Star Twirlers, D.J. Sharon Deluca with her photo booth, and Denise Tedesco who decorated the cake and baked many of the dessert items.

Over 60 items were presented in the Silent Auction with minimum bids ranging from \$10 to \$425.

During the evening, Executive Director, Cindee Tanuma was presented with honor of being named "Citizen of the Year" by the St. Mark's Masonic Lodge in Derry. A plaque was presented by Al Lamson and Master of the Lodge, Jeremy Ledoux.

The winner of the evenings 50/50 raffle, Tammy Stockton, relieved \$300 which she promptly donated to the Caregivers.



Photos by Chris Paul

13th Annual Potter's Bowl
A FUNDRAISER FOR COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS OF GREATER DERRY

