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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TO FILL EVERY BOWL: DINNER HELPS COMBAT LOCAL HUNGER**

‘Empty Bowls Dinner’ benefits Amherst Survival Center

AMHERST, Mass. – Amherst-area residents have a chance to combat local hunger by sharing dinner with their neighbors at Amherst Survival Center’s Third Annual Empty Bowls Dinner.

The event will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday March 14, 2011 at The Pub on 15 E. Pleasant St. in Amherst.

The meal of hearty soup, freshly baked bread, salad and cider will be served by local celebrities, including Town Manager John Musante, Members of the Amherst Select Board, Irv Rhodes (School Committee), Chief Scott Livingstone (Police), Chief Tim Nelson (Fire), John Ebbets (Executive Director, Hampshire County United Way), Aaron Lansky (Founder and Director, Yiddish Book Center), UMass Chancellor Robert Holub and wife Sabine Holub, and Tony Maroulis (Executive Director, Amherst Chamber of Commerce).

Each diner will take home a handcrafted bowl donated by a local artisan. Live music will be provided by Damon Reeves.

Tickets cost \$30 and are available at [www.amherstsurvival.org](http://www.amherstsurvival.org). Tickets can also be purchased at Hastings or at The Pub in downtown Amherst. Last year, the event sold out two weeks in advance. All proceeds go toward supporting basic needs services at the Amherst Survival Center.

“This year’s dinner is more important than ever,” said Cheryl Zoll, Executive Director of the Amherst Survival Center. “With ongoing cuts to services threatened at the state and federal levels, it falls to local organizations like ours to provide a safety net for increasing numbers of our neighbors in need. In one day alone last week, 240 people came to the Survival Center looking for food and clothing. That’s a record.”

Major sponsors of the dinner include The Pub, PeoplesBank, Easthampton Savings Bank and Mudpie Potters.

For more information, see [www.amherstsurvival.org](http://www.amherstsurvival.org), or call the Amherst Survival Center at 413-549-3968.

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*The Amherst Survival Center is a regional resource that provides food, health care, clothing and community through volunteer efforts.*