

AZ Insider: Great, Great Gift Idea!

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

Kathy Shayna Shocket has the inside scoop on the people who make a difference.



Enjoy hummus or soup at Pita Jungle for charity and take the ceramic bowl home!

This gift is so great, that even if you've already gifted this to someone last year, you can send them another one, or two, or three or more! That's because these custom handmade ceramic bowls have unique artistic personalities. And a more than reasonable price tag. They are the Empty Bowls created by **Arizona Clay Association** artists. And now through Dec 7, at Pita Jungle's 14 Phoenix metro locations- patrons can buy a bowl for \$15 and receive their choice of a small order of hummus, or a serving of soup, That includes dine-in or carryout.

The proceeds benefit Waste Not which delivered more than two million pounds of food last year to those who needed it most. The bowls can be a meaningful, one-of-a-kind gift this holiday season or a new dish to grow your personal collection.

"We are proud to be a part of the Empty Bowls movement here in Arizona and happy to extend to our guests the opportunity to feed our community's hungry," said **Bassel Osmani**, co-founder and co-owner of Pita Jungle. "Hunger remains one of the most prevalent challenges in our state. The heart of our brand is all about supporting local. With Empty Bowls, we not only get to support local artisans, we also get to support our fellow neighbors in need this holiday season."



This Valley wide fundraiser came about because the Pita Jungle location in Mesa had participated in the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser held at Mesa Community College for several years. Given Pita Jungle's heart for the cause and continued success with the fundraiser, the brand decided to take the initiative companywide this year.

By the way, **Lee Carroll** and her volunteer team at Arizona CLAY Association, which partners with businesses throughout the Valley, have raised over \$500,000 since its beginning Empty Bowls, 24 years ago!



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a freelance **Writer** and **TV-Field Producer** based in Phoenix, AZ. She's a former TV Reporter who's also written for national publications such as **TIME** Magazine, **MONEY** Magazine, **PEOPLE** Magazine, the **Hollywood Reporter** and **The NEW YORK TIMES**. She can be reached at redkarpetgirl@aol.com