



## Media Advisory

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

### **Mock soup kitchen event helps at-risk youth bounce back**

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "Empty Bowls" fundraiser to support vulnerable youth in Calgary

An event with a history of feeding the hungry is now setting its sights on a different cause: at-risk youth.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 20 at Fort Calgary, guests of Youth Central will be served a meal of home-made soup and bread, mock-soup kitchen style, while learning about the adversity many of Calgary's youth face day-to-day and what is being done to change it.

"We decided to switch the focus of our fundraising this year because of the incredible, life-changing work that is being done within the Calgary Young Offender Centre, ENVIROS, RADAR and Discovering Choices Schools within Calgary," said Heather Pearson, program coordinator of the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) at Youth Central in Calgary.

The evening will include a silent and live auction and entertainment by Andre Prefontaine and the Youth Slammers, performers with the Calgary Spoken Word Festival. Also, all guests will leave with a hand-made bowl to serve as a reminder of the youth who face adversity in our city.

Sylvia Galica, who coordinates the Bounce Back program at Youth Central, says the program offers youth an opportunity to use their voice in a positive way. "The theme of the event is change and the ability to affect change in yourself and the world through your voice," she said.

Proceeds raised at Empty Bowls will go to YVC Communities, an outreach program aimed at providing positive opportunities to vulnerable youth in Calgary.

**When:** Sunday, March 20, 2011, 5 – 7 p.m.

**Where:** Fort Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE

#### **Photo and interview opportunities will include:**

- Mock soup kitchen service
- Entertainment by Andre Prefontaine and the Youth Slammers
- Bounce Back program presentation
- Interviews with youth from the Empty Bowls planning committee

#### **Media contacts:**

Heather Pearson, Program Coordinator, Youth Volunteer Corps, Youth Central

Office: 403-266-5448

Cell: 403-991-5842

Email: [yvc@youthcentral.com](mailto:yvc@youthcentral.com)

Sylvia Galica, Program Coordinator, Youth Volunteer Corps Communities, Youth Central

Office: 403-266-5448

Cell: 403-850-2592

Email: [yvcommunities@youthcentral.com](mailto:yvcommunities@youthcentral.com)

**Youth Central** (formerly Child and Youth Friendly Calgary) is a charitable non-profit organization established in 1992 based on the firm belief that young people who experience being contributing members of society will become adults who have a sense of ownership and a responsibility to their community. Our mission is "Inspiring, engaging and celebrating youth through community participation." [www.youthcentral.com](http://www.youthcentral.com)