MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harvest Manitoba's Empty Bowls Celebrity Auction Dinner Raises $6.5 million to Fight Hunger

Historic night includes $5 million gift from Doug Harvey, Jan Shute and Family

WINNIPEG, MB – Harvest Manitoba was overwhelmed by the generous support of donors at its annual Empty Bowls Celebrity Auction Dinner, raising $6,527,000 in support of Manitobans facing hunger, the largest gala fundraising total in the province's history.

Hosted at the RBC Convention Centre on October 8, the sold-out evening featured some of Manitoba's top executive chefs, live performances, inspiring stories, and one-of-a-kind celebrity-signed bowls. Sponsors, attendees and friends of Harvest celebrated the power of community to help put food on tables across Manitoba.

The defining moment of the evening came with the announcement of a transformational $5 million gift to Harvest Manitoba's planned Manitoba Food Transformation Centre from the Doug Harvey and Jan Shute family.

The facility will be named the *Doug Harvey, Jan Shute and Family Manitoba Food Transformation Centre* in recognition of the family's generosity and longstanding commitment to the community. It will expand Harvest Manitoba's ability to recover, transform, store and distribute food across the province.

Doug Harvey was a deeply cherished friend of Harvest Manitoba and a devoted champion of the community he called home. Throughout his life, he gave his time, energy, and financial support to organizations across Manitoba, and raised nearly $2 million for CancerCare Manitoba in his final months. He believed in using what he had to help others, and the Centre will carry that commitment forward by strengthening food security across the province for years to come.

"Doug's legacy of enriching our province with his huge heart, generosity and humour will live on through his family," said Jan Shute, on behalf of the family. "With our gift, it is a lasting commitment of hope, opportunity and positive change for many utilizing Harvest Manitoba."

"Last night was an extraordinary moment for Harvest Manitoba and our community," said Vince Barletta, President and CEO of Harvest Manitoba. "This remarkable gift is a beautiful reflection of Doug's legacy and the generosity of Doug, Jan and their family. It will help strengthen food security across our province for generations. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who made this historic evening possible."

And while the dinner has come to a close, there is still an opportunity to support the event and Harvest Manitoba.

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Bidding remains open until Saturday, October 10 at 6 p.m. CDT on online auction prizes, including unique, handcrafted bowls signed by world-renowned names in film, television, music and sport. Raffle tickets can also be purchased for a chance to win an Air Canada trip anywhere in the world.

View and bid on all auction prizes at can.givergy.com/emptybowls.

Online Bidding Details
- Bid online: can.givergy.com/emptybowls
- Bidding closes: Saturday, October 10 at 6 p.m. CDT

To make a direct donation to Harvest Manitoba, visit harvestmanitoba.ca/donate-now.

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About Harvest Manitoba
Harvest Manitoba ("Harvest") is a charitable organization dedicated to nourishing our communities and our sense of community so that no Manitoban goes hungry. We collect and distribute over 13 million pounds of food every year through our Community Food Network of 400 food banks and agencies in Winnipeg, rural, northern and First Nations communities. Right now, we feed over 60,000 Manitobans who rely on food banks every month, and nearly half are children. To learn more or donate, please visit: HarvestManitoba.ca.

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