



No More Empty Pots

Education. Stewardship. Sustainability.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No More Empty Pots Announces The Grand Opening of the Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub

Omaha, Neb. | July 19, 2019 – No More Empty Pots will host the grand opening on Monday, August 12th from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at the Food Hub located at 8501 North 30th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68112.

No More Empty Pots Food Hub is based on a system of interdependent activities that deliver positive outcomes in job training, workforce readiness, food waste reduction, healthy food access in underserved areas, income generation and business development. The Food Hub programs support youth and adults in cultivating educational and career pathways. The programs are designed to take participant strengths and talents and further develop their skills needed to succeed in the workplace, grow small businesses and become self-sufficient — leading to economic resilience.

Nine years ago in February of 2010, a group of about 50 people expressed a desire to have more support for urban agriculture and rentable commercial kitchen space for food entrepreneurs. That request turned into a three year community wide research and listening project. In June of 2019 the physical manifestation of that intention will be completed. We can hardly wait to welcome so that you can experience five sectors of the food system (production, processing, distribution, consumption and recycling) in one place while efficiently closing loops that turn waste into value added products.

The Food Hub features new spaces that support and empower a thriving community. Opening ahead of the other spaces, Cups Café at Florence will begin inviting customers in on Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019. The café provides customer service and barista training areas and a place for entrepreneurs to test products before launching to a larger market. Local foods systems ventures need expertise like marketing, logistics and accounting support to grow and scale.

The Business Incubator along with technical assistance provided through community collaborations supports emerging small businesses and further leverages the expertise and resources of the local startup ecosystem.

The Kids Kitchen provides additional hands-on experiential learning instruction space for youth and families. Youth learn to prepare healthy local snacks and meals while developing basic self-sufficiency, problem solving, math/science/art and teamwork skills. The Kids Kitchen provides a fun space for kids and families to host parties. The Rooftop Garden provides urban agriculture education and food production opportunities that promote sustainable economic, cultural and social progress in the community through hands-on nutrition education and cooking demonstrations, incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) for students and families.

The Commercial Kitchens, available for rent by the hour, provides local food entrepreneurs an affordable, fully equipped space to start and grow unique businesses that serve the Omaha area. In addition, the Commercial Kitchens are used for the Culinary Workforce Training Program; a 15-week culinary workforce development training program, and production and distribution for prepared meal programs.

The Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub construction and startup costs are a \$4 million community investment with a projection to generate at least 50% percent of the funds needed to operate the food hub within seven years of the hub being operational. The food hub will capitalize on the over \$4.4 billion fresh food expenditures in Nebraska, recirculating those food dollars locally. At just 10 percent of these purchases from local farmers, Nebraskans could support a \$400 million annually recurring market.

The grand opening of the Food Hub is open to the public. Complimentary tickets can be reserved at bit.ly/gofoodhub For more information on the event, please contact No More Empty Pots at 402-502-1642 or info@nmepomaha.org.

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About No More Empty Pots

No More Empty Pots (NMEP) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. NMEP's vision is to support communities in becoming self-sufficient, and food secure through collaboration and adherence to our core values of education, stewardship, and sustainability. Our biggest project is the Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub where we provide jobs and training operating a shared use commercial kitchen and culinary workforce training program. NMEP serves youth to seniors in educational, hands-on experiential learning. Cups Café is a neighborhood café committed to helping the community become self-sufficient and food secure. It is a social enterprise program

area, where we engage community and support emerging small-scale food entrepreneurs. To learn more about No More Empty Pots, visit www.nmepomaha.org or email info@nmepomaha.org.

