





Past years have seen henna tattoo artists, graffiti artists and break dancers performing while this year's event showcased talented spoken word poets and double-dutch jump rope performers from The Boys & Girls Club of Milwaukee over the backdrop of up-tempo tunes spun by deejay collective No Request Sound.

## *Making a Difference*

Choosing just which organization would benefit from their event was an easy choice for FYS members, said Liz Syrrakos, operations co-manager at Flux Design and chairwoman of FYS. "We wanted to see immediate results and after looking into it, we knew we could count on them for that," she said, adding that Second Harvest can purchase far more for every dollar than the average consumer due to different partnerships with food producers.

And for their part, Feed Your Soul has become the largest, non-in-house donation program over the years. The group won the Governor's Donor Award in 2007 for their work. It was quite an honor being chosen by Second Harvest to receive this award and meet the Governor, said Posselt.

"As a nonprofit, we are always looking for new fundraising avenues," said Gina Styer, communications manager for Second Harvest. "This one is so unique because the passion of the Feed Your Soul committee drives the success of the event." "Each year, we look forward to another year of beautiful bowls, entertainment and most of all, inspiration," added Styer.



# FEED YOUR SOUL

*Five years ago, a group of Milwaukee artists, architects, and interior designers realized the hunger they shared in using their talents to help others. The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) was looking to participate in more community service events throughout the city.*

After some thought and research was thrown into the mixing bowl, this collective of local creativity from the design community concocted a recipe that combines the ingredients of art and entertainment with heaping portions of interest in feeding those who cannot afford to feed themselves.

The local ASID chapter along with the local chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) became the founding sponsors of Feed Your Soul and every year, every dollar raised is donated to Second Harvest of Wisconsin.

What they've pulled from the oven is a fundraising art auction dubbed Feed Your Soul, which has raised more than \$100,000 for Second Harvest of Wisconsin in four years. They held their fifth annual event on November 7th. Flux Design is the 5th founding sponsor of this event. Not only do they generously donating their amazing space every year, many of the Flux designers, including Jeremy Sharrowicz, Jesse Meyer and Adam Meuer donate 2D art work as well as bowls.





America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin is a food bank. Their mission is to feed the hungry in Wisconsin by obtaining food and related products, distributing them to qualified non-profit programs and providing those programs with appropriate assistance.

Through their warehouses in Milwaukee and the Fox Valley, Second Harvest distributes more than 13 million pounds of food a year to more than 1,100 pantries, meal programs and other nonprofit agencies that serve nearly 235,000 people in the eastern half of Wisconsin.

Through their Milwaukee distribution center, they provide more than 11 million pounds of food to nearly 800 nonprofit programs in nine counties. More than 172,000 people depend on food supplied by Second Harvest's Milwaukee warehouse.

For more info or to donate, please visit us at:

[feedyoursoul.us](http://feedyoursoul.us)  
[secondharvestwi.org](http://secondharvestwi.org)

Many members of the committee took some time a few weeks prior to this year's event to prepare and serve food at a local pantry that receives much of its donations from Second Harvest. This was organized by Syrrakos and Mendenhall.

"This was an important experience for everyone and reminded us exactly what we are doing - and why we are doing it. It's easy to get caught up in the logistics and planning of the event because we are so focused on all the intimate details that make it so successful. We needed to see first hand why we are raising money," said Posselt.

Given the current economic slump, Second Harvest's food pantry is down a million pounds, "so raising even more money is extremely important this year," added Syrrakos. And in the end, Syrrakos and Posselt agree that the experience for both FYS organizers and attendees is not only full of memorable entertainment and incredible art but also a humbling one. "It makes you think about your own consumption and those who don't have enough food to go around," said Syrrakos. ★



**America's Second Harvest  
of Wisconsin**  
Ending Hunger

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

