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**CAC'S 2008 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEONS –
THE EMPTY BOWL BENEFITS A GIFT OF LOVE'S BACK PACK PROJECT**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce its second year of participating in the national Empty Bowls project. Last year the CAC's annual Christmas luncheons began a new tradition – as in previous years, guests enjoyed a festive holiday atmosphere with fine food and live music at the historic Roberts-Mozley House, but they also donated a minimum of \$12 per person in order to select a unique handmade ceramic bowl created by local potters, art students and other volunteers to take home with them after they have enjoyed the soup, salad and bread donated by The Red Lobster and The Olive Garden, local Darden Group restaurants for the Friday luncheons, or pizza donated by Stevie B's Pizza Buffet for the Saturday luncheon. These donations supported A Gift of Love's Back Pack project. This new tradition was so successful last year that the Cultural Arts Council is offering the Empty Bowls Luncheons again this December and expanding to offer a Saturday buffet so students and others who cannot attend on Friday can join the fun. The 2008 Douglasville Empty Bowls luncheons will include two seatings on Friday, December 12th at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. and a more casual buffet style luncheon on Saturday, December 13th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For reservations and more information, contact the CAC 770-949-2787.

“Last year everyone had such a wonderful time together and they supported a great cause,” stated Laura C. Lieberman, Executive Director of the Cultural Arts Council. “It was truly in the spirit of the holiday season. More than 150 talented and generous people helped make bowls for our project -- and even more people have made bowls this year!” The Empty Bowls project began in 1990 when a high school teacher in Michigan decided to have his students do a project on world hunger. The Empty Bowls has grown into a national initiative, raising millions of dollars to combat hunger with events held around the country and even throughout the world. The basic idea is that students, potters and anyone else make ceramic bowls for a fund-raising meal. Guests are served a simple meal– and they get to choose a unique handmade ceramic bowl to take home. Participating groups select a local food bank, soup kitchen or other organization, particularly those that support distributing food to hungry children, to receive the proceeds of The Empty Bowl event.

The Cultural Arts Council in Douglas County selected A Gift of Love with all proceeds from its Christmas luncheons going to support its “Back Pack Project.” A former school food service worker, Juanita Clay started the project because she knew the number of students in the Douglas County Schools who started school on Monday morning hungry. Through the Back Pack project, every Friday afternoon needy children in Douglas County schools receive a new backpack filled with healthy, non-perishable foods (two breakfasts, snacks and dinners – about the limit of 20 pounds). Last year with the help of the bowl makers and luncheons guests, CAC raised more than \$1,000 so that children in two Douglas County elementary schools will receive full backpacks until the end of the school year. With the current economic situation, the Cultural Arts Council hopes to raise even more this year and help meet the increased needs for assistance answered by A Gift of Love's Back Pack Project.