To whom it may concern:

This letter of reference is intended to convey the appreciation and respect of Winnipeg Harvest for the contribution made by Cameron Cross to our work in the community.

Cameron Cross returned from a visit to an educators' conference in the United States with news of a program there called "Empty Bowls in the Schools." The basic idea behind Empty Bowls is simple. Students create and design ceramic bowls and then serve a simple meal of soup and bread to parents and the community. Parents and community members buy one of the student-made bowls for $10 and take it home. The purchased bowl is left empty in the home as a reminder that there are many Empty Bowls in the world – and in our own city. All money raised during this event is given to Winnipeg Harvest.

To incorporate service learning into the project, participating schools connect this project to learning about hunger in our own community. This is achieved by studying the issue of poverty in the classroom, inviting a speaker from Winnipeg Harvest to speak to the students, or ideally, visiting or volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest with the students. Once students are able to identify hunger as a true need in our community, they are usually involved in the planning of the Empty Bowls Project.

As Art Consultant for Pembina Trails School Division, Cameron Cross helped organize many Empty Bowls events in Winnipeg schools. Winnipeg Harvest continues to work with teachers and other educators on the Empty Bowls program and other programs to engage Winnipeg students in the issues of hunger and poverty.

We thank and recognize Cameron Cross for his contributions to this important part of the way we relate to our next generation of community leaders.

I would be happy to act as a reference for Cameron in any of his future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

David Northcott, C.M., O.M.
Executive Director
Winnipeg Harvest