

## Souper Bowl draws hundreds

ROB DANIEL • IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN • FEBRUARY 4, 2011

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Jessica Adam sat down at a table with her parents, Coleman and Ann Adam, on Thursday night in the ballroom of the Clarion Highlander Hotel in Iowa City, a bowl of clam chowder in front of her.

The San Antonio resident said her parents had convinced her to come up and attend the Domestic Violence Intervention Program's Souper Bowl.

"They always talked about the soup," Jessica Adam said.

The Adams were among about 400 people expected to attend the 14th annual Souper Bowl, one of the main fundraisers of the year for DVIP as it works to support its program of helping victims of domestic violence and educating the public about the issue, DVIP's executive director Kristie Fortmann-Doser said. She said the community still was showing up despite the aftermath of this week's blizzard.

"It's a bit of a community reunion," Fortmann-Doser said. "This dinner is a chance for people to enjoy each other ... and to help out."

Along with helping out DVIP, those attending also benefited themselves.

For their \$20 ticket, they got to pick out a ceramic bowl, which had been donated by co-sponsor Fired Up Inc., who had volunteer artists paint their contributions, as well as Houseworks in Iowa City and area antique stores. They then were able to use that bowl to eat as much soup, which included selections such as lobster bisque and Japanese curry soup from area restaurants, as they wanted.

"It's great because these are all local restaurants," Fortmann-Doser said. "They give us their best. We get some amazing soup."

Eve Casserly of Coralville said she was a regular at the Souper Bowl with her husband, Bill Laubengayer.

"The soup is great, and the event is great," Casserly said as she ate a bowl of Wisconsin cheese soup. "We wouldn't miss it. It's a great way to get the community information about a serious problem."

Nearby, the Adam family ate their soup in their ceramic bowls.

Ann Adam had tried lobster bisque and Tuscan tomato soup, while Coleman Adam had tried the chili and chicken gnocchi.

"I love it," Ann Adam said. "The soup adds a great variety. I think it's a great worthwhile cause. It gives me an opportunity to support something like this."

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Bobbie Nelson, left, of Coralville helps her daughter, Emilie Nelson, 12, pick out a bowl Thursday at the Souper Bowl, an annual fundraiser for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program at the Clarion Highlander Hotel in Iowa City. (Press-Citizen / Matthew Holst)

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