Town of Palm Beach United Way Empty Your Pantry Food Drive to be held Saturday, April 3 at Flagler Museum

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PALM BEACH, FL – The Town of Palm Beach United Way 8th Annual Empty Your Pantry Food Drive will be on Saturday, April 3 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach. This year’s drive will be a one-day-only event, in partnership with the Flagler Museum and Palm Beach Daily News.

Non-perishable food items will be collected to benefit food insecure individuals and families in Palm Beach County. Donors can drive thru or walk up to the collection station near the gated entrance to drop off items. Volunteers will collect the donations.

“We are seeing and hearing that food continues to be one of the greatest needs for clients at our nonprofit partner agencies throughout Palm Beach County,” said Board Chairman Mary Freitas. “As many seasonal residents prepare to leave for the summer we hope to collect food items that might otherwise go to waste and provide them to our neighbors in need.”

Each year the Town of Palm Beach United Way chooses two of its nonprofit partner agencies to benefit from the drive. The agencies rotate each year. This year clients of El Sol and The Glades Initiative will receive items.

El Sol improves the quality of life for residents of Jupiter and surrounding communities by providing services primarily to day laborers, their children and families. The agency serves a small breakfast, a hot meal and to-go lunches for workers. El Sol has also distributed thousands of food bags, prepared meals and gift cards to families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Addressing food insecurities and the underlying causes; unemployment, underemployment, food knowledge, and access to healthy food has always been part of El Sol’s work,” said Suzanne Cordero, Executive Director. “Through our hot meal program, workers leave our Labor Hall for a day of hard, physical labor after having received a nutritious meal. Additionally, they are given a bagged lunch as they go out to work. We have seen an increase in food insecurity as one of many effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and we are grateful to be able to address this need with the help of community supporters.”

The Glades Initiative is the local source to identify and coordinate the health and human service needs of the Glades community. The agency operates a food bank that helps support food pantries at 14 agencies in the Glades. During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Glades Initiative has gone from serving 50 families a week to 350 families a week. The agency has distributed more than 33,000 food bags to families in need.
Food Drive donors are encouraged to place items in the trunk and when they arrive at
the museum volunteers will gather the food.

“The Flagler Museum, through its community outreach committee, Flagler’s Spirit, is
thrilled to be participating in this year’s Town of Palm Beach United Way Empty Your
Pantry Food Drive,” said Allison Goff, Member and Visitor Services Director. “We are
proud to support the mission of the Town of Palm Beach United Way and believe no
one should have to worry over where their next meal will come from, but unfortunately
that is the reality for thousands of residents in Palm Beach County. We thank our
generous members and visitors and the greater Palm Beach community for helping
support our most vulnerable neighbors and we are grateful for the outpouring of
participation in this most difficult time.”

Monetary donations will also gladly be accepted. Residents can donate online at
www.palmbeachunitedway.org/food-drive or send a check. Checks should be payable
to Town of Palm Beach United Way with “Food Drive” in the memo and mailed to the
United Way office at 44 Cocoanut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

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