



Town of Palm Beach United Way

44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

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Town of Palm Beach United Way annual Empty Your Pantry Food Drive to benefit food insecure children and families in Palm Beach County

For Release – Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919; aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

PALM BEACH, FL – The Town of Palm Beach United Way is asking supporters to clear out their cupboards to help food insecure residents in Palm Beach County. The 10th Annual Empty Your Pantry Food Drive runs from Sunday, April 2 through Sunday, April 16.

Non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be collected to benefit low-income individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Donors can drop off items at the town’s central and south end fire stations, Field of Greens or the United Way office.

“Food affordability is still a major issue for many families in our community,” said Board Chairman Bill Tiefel. “The food drive helps bridge the gap and get people back on their feet. It’s also a wonderful opportunity for Palm Beach residents to empty their pantries before they leave for the summer.”

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, food collected during the drive will be donated to El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center and Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Every morning, El Sol provides a safe and organized space for day laborers to meet employers for a day of work. Workers waiting for labor are offered a continental breakfast, a nutritious hot meal, and a lunch to go. To support its clients, El Sol also offers adult literacy and vocational training, case management services, health information and referrals, and programs for youth. The agency served close to 1,400 unique individuals in 2022.

“Last year we served nearly 19,000 hot meals,” said Suzanne Whitbeck, Executive Director. “For many clients, this hot meal is their main meal of the day. We can’t do this work alone, and that’s why we are very grateful to the Town of Palm Beach United Way for selecting us to be a beneficiary of the spring food drive.”

The Homeless Coalition works to prevent and end homelessness through financial assistance, collaboration and advocacy. The agency’s Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers program provides meals to homeless individuals and families residing at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center. Individuals and families can stay up to 90 days at the center and receive three meals a day. Homeless Coalition currently serves more than 1,000 clients.

“It’s essential for us to be able to provide meals to clients staying at the Lewis Center and Lewis Annex, and to clients moving into temporary and permanent housing provided through our partners Adopt-A-Family, Gulfstream Goodwill and The Lord’s Place,” said Pamela Payne, CEO. “As clients are making major life changes and learning to adjust to the expenses of sustaining their new arrangement, being able to not worry about where their next meal is coming from is a blessing.”

In addition to food donations, the Town of Palm Beach United Way will gladly accept monetary contributions. 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 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Food Drive partners include the Palm Beach Daily News and Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

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ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

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 561 655 1919

 561 655 1740

 info@palmbeachunitedway.org

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