

Feeding our neighbors, one plate at a time.



CLOSTER FOOD PANTRY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

September is upon us, and, we wish those starting or returning to school a wonderful year ahead. Thanks for taking a moment to check in on us.

CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER

The Food & Assistance Board is sponsoring **Closter's 7th Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, Oct. 19** and welcomes all residents to join their neighbors and support this wonderful community event while earning a little extra cash at the same time. Simply host a one-day yard sale at your home (you set your hours) and not only clean out your closets but have fun too! In exchange for a non-refundable \$20 donation, the Food & Assistance Board will advertise the event and create a map of all yard sale locations while the Borough will waive its normal permit fees for all registered participants. All donations will directly support the Food & Assistance Board of Closter and the Closter Food Pantry.

Closter residents wishing to participate should complete the form found on closterboro.com, include \$20 cash or a check made out to "Food & Assistance Board of Closter", and bring it to the Borough Hall Tax Window (first floor). While you are visiting Borough Hall, consider also dropping off a non-perishable food or grocery item at the Closter Food Pantry located on the ground floor.

All registration forms must be received by **THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2019. NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

The map and list of all participants' addresses will be posted on closterboro.com on Friday October 18.

QUESTIONS? Email fabofcloster@gmail.com or call (201) 784-0600, Ext 429. We're looking forward to a very successful event and thank you for your support!



OUR SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

To help neighbors in need, **Saint Mary's Church** (Closter) is collecting non-perishable grocery items on the fourth Sunday of every month. We encourage parishioners to keep the collection in mind while scanning the circulars and shopping the sales.

Does it get any better than this? A tower of Girl Scout cookies was generously donated by **Girl Scout Troop 40013 - Tappan Zee Service Unit**.



Thank you to leaders **Jane Nicholl** and **Matt Logerfo** and members **Lily Logerfo**, **Hope Kosterer**, **Claire Carol**, **Madeline Wennerode**, **Hela Giaerer**, **Sofia Tuttle** and **Katie Coffey**. Our families are in for a treat!

Thank you, **anonymous donor**, for your donation of \$8.47 that we found in a baggie on top of our donation cart. Every dollar helps!



We thank another **anonymous donor** for a wonderful collection of condiments, which our newsletter noted as needing last month.

While on the topic of anonymous donors, we have an interesting story to tell. One of our volunteers, recently leaving the pantry, ran into a woman walking outside the pantry arms full with grocery bags. Our volunteer inquired if the woman was heading to the pantry, and, as she was, our volunteer helped her in. She was donating 10 boxes of corn muffin mix and 10 jars of mayonnaise, as she had read in the newsletter that we needed condiments. As it turned out, she had also donated toilet cleaners, dish detergents, and likely a host of other anonymous items over the past year. As we now know your identity, but suspect you prefer to remain anonymous, we thank you, sincerely, for your generosity and for checking our newsletter to identify the most needed items.

A big shout out to **Karen Farber** (Closter) for thinking of the pantry while ushering out the summer. Karen asked those invited to her end-of-summer gathering to contribute donations for the pantry, which yielded approximately 100 items.



Much thanks to the volunteers who helped to keep the pantry in order by sorting, dating, and shelving food donations in August.

Closter

Danny Jakob
Nicole Jakob
Matty Mufson

Demarest

Noa Mikay

Haworth

Dane Kuehnrich

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

We especially need the items below, but welcome any donations. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

- Oils – vegetable, olive, coconut to name a few
- Peanut butter
- Tuna
- Pasta sauce
- Chef Boyardee
- Oatmeal individual packs

FOOD DRIVES/FINANCIAL DONATIONS

If your family, employer, religious or other organization would like to **host a food drive** in the upcoming months, please contact us at fabofcloster@gmail.com for more information and let us help you plan a successful event!

If you would like to **make a financial donation** to the Closter Food Pantry, please make your check out to “Food & Assistance Board of Closter” and mail it to 295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ 07624.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Getting to Know the Closter Food Pantry and the People We Serve

This is a true story.

A gentleman wandered into Borough Hall one day, still with the hospital band on his wrist, having come from surgery and an extended hospital stay, knowing there was no food at home nor money to buy food. An official in Borough Hall reached out to a pantry volunteer who went to meet him. The gentleman was using a cane, probably only 60 years old or so, but looking pretty haggard after a long hospital stay. Together they went through the pantry shelves, packing bags of food for him to take home. On that day, and subsequent ones, he shared his story with our volunteer.

He and his wife had "downsized" to a \$1.8 million Closter home after selling their \$5 million Saddle River home where he had lived for many years. They had two grown children, drove an older luxury car (whose trunk didn't open, nor one back door) and the gentleman had been a Wall Street executive with his own radio show on Bloomberg. Over the years he had always been a large donor to many charities, including food pantries. His circle of friends had been influential leaders in many industries, including the owner of a well-known food store chain. How ironic that he then found himself coming to a food pantry with empty shelves in his home, craving Chef Boyardee. A man who easily had paid \$200 a plate at some pretty impressive restaurants was now craving Chef Boyardee. He and his wife came to the CFP for over a year while they tried to get back on their feet – never telling their children how bad things were. How does this happen? Medical costs, bad decisions, irresponsible choices... and a string of bad luck.

This gentleman asked that his story be told so people understand that this can happen to anyone. They eventually sold the Closter home and moved but wanted people to know that you can't judge a book by its cover. When you see a luxury car drive up to a food pantry, many people question whether that person really needs help. But if you have a car that's paid for, it makes no sense to sell it and buy another "cheap" car -- you use what you have. And even if that car is parked outside a

million dollar home, if the shelves are bare and the family doesn't know where the next meal comes from, none of us can sit in judgment. What we all can do, what we must do, is help.

Follow us on social media:

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***IMPORTANT:** If you know anyone in Closter who may be in need and is hesitant to come forward or just might not know how, please email us fabofcloster@gmail.com or call (201) 784-0600, extension 429. All inquiries are received in complete confidence. The Closter Food Pantry (CFP) is located on the ground floor level of Borough Hall at 295 Closter Dock Road. On the second Thursday of every month we host "Open Door Night" where families receive the non-perishable food items they need. Our Open Door Night schedule for 2019 is posted on the CFP bulletin board next to the elevator. First-time visitors are welcome with a current form of photo identification and proof of residency.*