

**Solidarity Sandy Springs**  
**Pop Up Food Pantry**  
**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
**Contact**  
**Toren Anderson Media**  
**404 422-6671**  
**torenanderson@me.com**

### **SOLIDARITY SANDY SPRINGS POP UP PANTRY**

***Love and Dignity are part of the experience for each person in need as they are gifted food and more at this volunteer community based market.***

- This began with a group of neighbors concerned about the welfare of the local children and families and how they will fare the economic hardship of COVID19. While some families are figuring out virtual classrooms and how to work from home, these families are figuring out where their next meal will come from. They are there to ease that burden. We are neighbors helping neighbors.
- The line begins at dawn and wraps around the building each day they are serving.
- The intended focus is to serve families enrolled in one of the Sandy Springs schools with a high percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunch including: High Point, Lake Forest, Ison Springs, Dunwoody Springs, Spalding Drive and Woodland Elementary Schools, Ridgeview and Sandy Springs Middle School and Riverwood and North Springs High School.
- The Food Pantry location March was formed by a collaboration between The Barnes Young Team at Keller Williams Realty - (Jennifer Barnes is there 7 days a weeks) .
- This location opened March 27 and ran out of food after serving 60 families, leaving at least 30 shoppers on the sidewalk. Fear, doubt and tears lasted for about 15 minutes. The volunteers organized, mobilized, locally publicized and reopened the next day serving 105 families and no one left without food.
- Since then over thousands of shoppers have been served. At the current rate, conservatively we will have another 5,000 shoppers.

- Under the Cork Tree location (donated restaurant space) is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 11-3. It's filled with volunteers to make it all special and as thoughtful as it can be.
- The vision is to provide an experience of warmth and love while they shop for food, hygiene items, diapers, formula, fresh produce and baby food. They also provide books for all ages.
- Gloves, masks and 2 shopping bags per person are given at the door. Social distancing is observed. One shopper at a time in the "store."
- This effort began with seed money from a philanthropic donor and the shelves are now stocked by community giver's (food and monetary) donations. Individuals & local businesses have come alongside this crucial outreach.
- The minimal cost is \$2,450 per day plus the community donations of staples, non-perishable foods and cleaning supplies for the families.
- Each day the pantry opens more and more people from the community come alongside the vision and give.
- For base staples and fresh produce the need is great. Individual donations make up the remainder of the supplies. They distribute 250 lbs of beans and rice each a day.
- In order to carry on until the end of the original school year they will need thousands more in donations. An announcement is coming about a location to serve the families moving forward.
- Events are in the works for Mother's Day including the children shopping for their Mothers and taking home wrapped gifts, and May 14th Red Day, a day of serving and giving back with Keller Williams Peachtree Road Office sponsoring the day.
- The Pantry provided school lunch for Spring break Fulton County schools with 1,000 children a day being fed.

- [www.solidaritysandysprings.com](http://www.solidaritysandysprings.com)





## **Abundance-Gratitude-Kindness**

**Operating out of the restaurant, Under the Cork Tree in the Sandy Springs Prado from the generosity of Jason Sheetz, Owner, 5600 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs. Jason heard about this work and literally left a key for the organizers and said, "Go for it. You are most welcome." -**