

Get Organized with Sappari Solutions

LIFESTYLE
SOLUTIONS 
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Fighting clutter, one messy space at a time, the organizers at Sappari Solutions provide information, products and assistance to help others organize their lives.
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Nettie Owens founded Sappari Solutions in 2004, even though several years earlier she wasn't even aware that organizing was an industry. She was inspired by reality tv on at the time (Clean Sweep & Mission Organization), and when she bumped into a real life organizer... she was intrigued. Nettie and her husband were planning to start a family, and she wanted something to call her own, while still managing a family.

Nettie's intention was to get a job working for someone else, but there was a lack of opportunities at the time. Availing herself of what limited training was available, she forged her way by immersing herself in this budding industry. She joined NAPO and pursued becoming the leading organizing company in Harford County.

Sappari Solutions works with all types of clients, not just those suffering from chronic disorganization. But if you're wondering if you might fall into that category... you're not alone. I was too, so I asked Nettie how I would know if I'm suffering from a chronic problem, or just a haphazard way of doing things.

"According to the Institute for Challenging Disorganization, there are 4 main questions you can ask yourself to determine if you are suffering from chronic disorganization, said Nettie. (1) Has this problem persisted over your lifetime? (2) Does your disorganization affect your lifestyle? (3) Have you made attempts to improve your disorganization in the past and not been successful? (4) Do you feel that the situation will never improve?"

Even if this doesn't sound like you, Sappari Solutions has help for those who just don't have the time or haven't incorporated effective organizing skills into their routines. Nettie and her team will tackle everything from a closet redo to assisting in a whole house clean-up.

"You can be an organized person and be a terrible organizer. What we do is work with our clients to discover the underlying problems and find a lasting path forward", said Nettie.

She is quick to point out that they are not therapists, but a big part of what they do is educating their clients while being sensitive to their situation. "It's like asking an overweight person why they just don't lose weight," said Nettie. "Quite often clients have a lot of feelings tied up in their clutter."

Nettie has taken her role as educator to the masses and developed a "Letting Go of the Clutter" series to help those looking for more order in their lives. The courses are available at Harford and Cecil Community Colleges and libraries.

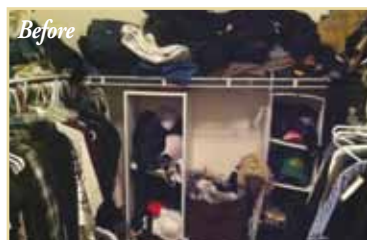
To further community awareness, Sappari Solutions teamed up with Harford Community College to create "Clear Your Clutter Day". This widely successful event will be servicing the community for the 3rd year, providing recycling opportunities for hard to dispose of household items such as electronics, clothing, paper and more.

If that wasn't enough, Sappari Solutions holds a contest every year in search of "Harford's Messiest Closet". This year's winner came from Abingdon. See the miraculous make-over below.

Harfords Messiest Closet 2013

Every year, Sappari Solutions, in coordination with GO (Get Organized) Month sponsors a contest to find the messiest closet in Harford County. This year the event was also sponsored by Barely Used Consignments on Main St, so that all those items that moved out of the closet would have a productive place to go.

The diagnosis for this closet's issue was that the owner works long hours and never puts anything away. In order to address these issues, Sappari Solutions organizers Jane Hall and Linda Nitchie, took the closet apart and re-worked it. You can do your own closet makeover by following these steps:



Make-Over Your Closet

1. Clear Out the Space:

If you have a helper, 4-8 hours and a staging area; you can empty the closet entirely and start fresh. If you don't you can still do this process incrementally. Work on one section at a time. Empty the area.

2. Group Items:

As you remove items, group them by like kind. In this way you will notice if you have ten pairs of similar black pants or fifty purses.

3. Choose Favorites:

Most homes could use a reduction in the amount of stuff, remember the 80/20 Rule (keeping in mind, we only use 20% of what we own) and pick your favorite items that you would like to keep. Set rules such as picking 5 of each kind of item to retain or one for each day of the week (for clothes). Determine to part with the remaining, non-favorite items. Be sure to know where they are going whether it is consignment, donation, hand-me-down or trash. Put the items to go in large white or clear bags marked for their ultimate destination. Use black bags for trash.

4. Clean and Arrange the space:

Now that you can see what you are keeping, take time to clean the space and arrange the area for the types of items you have. Many closets only have a bar to hang clothes with no other organizing means. Check out ContainerStore.com for closet organizing ideas or Pinterest.com/SappariSolution. An easy fix is to hang a second bar with a shelf below the existing bar, and store pants folded over a hanger on the top bar, shirts on the bottom bar and baskets for small items in between. In the case of the winning closet, the organizer unit was moved into a more productive location.

5. Put it Away:

You could have the greatest design for a closet system but if you do not honor it, you will still have a mess. Take time to put your items back into your closet and identify a 'home' for them. You may want to label or put photos of what goes in each location. When your stuff has a home, it is easy to put your things away. Putting back what you use keeps your home in order and clutter at bay.

Projects, like a closet or other storage space are great areas to begin organizing. Starting in a storage area cleanses you and your home and makes way for the items you truly love and use. Often times the items hidden in the back of a storage area are easy to part with because they have been out of sight for so long, we just forgot they were there!

If your closets are out of whack and you are feeling the pressure of a clutter problem, take time to lower your clutter levels so that your home (and you) and function at its best!