



HAND IN HAND

A NEWSLETTER FROM PERSON-TO-PERSON

Caring for Our Community: COVID-19 Rapid Response



P2P team members Kislene and Marcello work on P2P's Mobile Food Pantry in Stamford

“
This is when our work counts the most.
”
- KISLENE, P2P CASEWORKER

Thanks to you, we have responded quickly to meet the dramatic increase in need that began emerging in our community in early March. The snapshot below reflects March-April service at P2P.



1,743 NEW CLIENTS

1,743 new individuals received services from P2P, including 729 children



281,904 MEALS

Groceries for 281,904 meals provided to 10,979 people in 4,539 households



\$85,112 IN RENT

\$85,112 in rental assistance was provided to 165 families



70 HOME DELIVERIES WEEKLY

A Message from Nancy and Victoria

Dear Friends,

Like you, we have felt overwhelmed in recent weeks by the magnitude of the challenges we are facing as a country and a community. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to retreat into our homes, endure painful stories about lost loved ones, and live in uncertainty. Many of our neighbors are suffering sudden job loss and members of our own community find themselves struggling to secure even the most basic necessities.

P2P is no stranger to crisis. In fact, we were founded more than 50 years ago to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population. We are here today, keeping food on the table and roofs over the heads of thousands of Fairfield County residents. These are families who were already hurting, working hard, day-to-day, to piece together fragile economic realities, and who lack the resources and social safety net to weather this crisis alone.

Our neighbors are really struggling now, and they need our help. As our communities slowly begin to reopen, many will be left behind without the resources to rebuild their lives. We cannot delay getting help to these people in need.

We share our most sincere gratitude for the outpouring of care and concern from the community. With you standing alongside us, we can continue to provide vital food and financial assistance to support the well-being of all of our neighbors.

Nancy Coughlin
CEO

Victoria de Toledo
P2P Board President

COVID-19 Update Summer Camp

The COVID-19 crisis has left many wondering what the summer will bring. While we work with our 20 summer camp partners to assess how their plans will affect our 400 campers, we are already planning ways to support them and their families through the summer months.

Did You Know Charitable Giving

We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to P2P during these challenging times. We want to share how the new CARES Act may help you deduct your donations to P2P.

The bill allows for up to \$300 in charitable contributions as an above-the-line deduction for those who do not itemize, meaning you don't have to itemize to claim the deduction. For those who do itemize, the bill increases the cap on annual giving from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100%. For corporate charitable giving, the bill raises the annual limit from 10% to 25% of taxable income for corporations.

If you would like to support P2P and take advantage of the new charitable giving deductions, please visit our donate page or email TracyCramer@p2pHelps.org to discuss other gifting options, like Donor Advised Funds, Gifts of Stock, or Legacy Giving.

Thank you!



Virtual Food Drive

Turning 10 and Caring for Others



Carter and Nick are 4th graders at West School in New Canaan. Not only are they classmates, they are teammates who play baseball, football, and basketball

together.

For a recent school assignment, Carter was asked how he would make the world a better place, and he wrote about wanting to make sure everyone had food. As his birthday was approaching, Carter decided that a great way to celebrate—in lieu of a party—would be to help those in need. And he wanted to do it with his good friend, Nick, who also had a birthday coming up.

So, the boys created their own team on P2P's Virtual Food Drive page and set a goal of \$1,010 recognizing their upcoming 10th birthdays. By sharing their fundraiser with family and friends, they quickly met and far exceeded their goal!

"P2P was the perfect option because it's local and provides meals to families," explains Carter's Mom, Kim Dailey. "Our family is really proud of the boys for their generosity and kindness. So grateful that they have such a great local organization to support," shares Julie Passios, Nick's mom.

Inspired by Carter and Nick? Starting a Virtual Food Drive is easy and helps continue to support social distancing during COVID-19. Sign up at give.p2phelps.org/virtualfooddrive

- Step 1.** Set a fundraising goal
- Step 2.** Create and personalize your own fundraising page -as an individual or team
- Step 3.** Share via email or social media, and invite family & friends to help you meet your goal!

DOOR2DOOR

Home Delivery When it is Needed Most

Imagine being the sole caregiver for your elderly parent with health concerns of your own. In light of COVID-19 infection rates and current stay-at-home orders, many of those we serve cannot leave their homes for even the basic essentials. In response to that need, P2P launched Door2Door, a home delivery program which brings grocery items from our pantries directly to home-bound clients in our service area.

More than 60 families received home deliveries in the first week alone, and the program continues to grow. Partnering with the United Way of Western Connecticut, the City of Stamford, Stamford Together and the Norwalk Health Department, P2P is committed to making sure all those most directly affected by COVID-19 have uninterrupted access to healthy food.



Chris Whitney, a P2P Board Member, packing up for a home delivery.



About Person-to-Person

Founded more than 50 years ago, P2P's mission is to help individuals and families who are facing situational crises with basic needs such as food assistance and emergency financial assistance. With locations in Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford, we serve our neighbors in the towns of Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. Through three food pantries—including a mobile pantry in Stamford—a clothing center, emergency financial assistance, and scholarship and campership programs, we provide services to 25,000 people each year, including 10,000 children. For more information on P2P, visit www.p2phelps.org.

Emergency Financial Assistance Paying the Rent—A Client Story



Damone, a P2P caseworker, meets with clients and connects them to services.

Our Emergency Financial Assistance Program provides funds to individuals to help with rent, security deposits, utility payments, and other emergency expenses. Our skilled caseworkers meet with clients to assess their needs, assist with household budgeting, make referrals to complimentary services and provide support.

Sarah and her husband, Paul, have worked hard to try and maintain a stable life for their five wonderful children, three of whom are school-

aged. Sarah, the primary wage earner for her family, was laid off from her job as a dental hygienist due to the COVID-19 crisis. With this sudden loss of income, the family is now struggling to pay their monthly bills, especially rent. With emergency financial assistance from P2P, Sarah can put money towards their rent and stay on top of their other urgent bills, such as car payments and health insurance. This support will help to ease some of their stress as they navigate an uncertain future.

Person-to-Person provided emergency financial assistance to over 1,000 households in 2019. With unemployment claims in Connecticut at staggering levels—10,000 claims were filed in one day alone in March—we expect to provide more emergency financial assistance in the next four months than we did in all of 2019.

If you are in need of assistance, please call (203) 655-0048.



Get to Know Us 10 Ways P2P Transforms Lives

1. Person-to-Person has a proven 50-year history of transforming lives in lower Fairfield County.
2. We create equitable access to resources for 25,000 individuals, ensuring warm homes, adequate food and educational equity.
3. We provide food to prepare 1,200,000 meals annually, making us the largest provider of food to low-income families in lower Fairfield County.
4. Our scholarship programs offer first generation students and their families better futures.
5. Camperships provide peace of mind to working parents and safe enriching summers for school age children.
6. With three locations, professional staff and skilled multi-lingual caseworkers, we remove barriers to access, transportation and language.
7. We mobilize 4,000 volunteers each year from middle school to over age 90.
8. We partner with hundreds of organizations and agencies to expand our collective impact.
9. For every \$1 raised, we successfully leverage over \$3 of donated goods—food, clothing, baby basics, and toys—giving your donation greater impact.
10. As the economic gap widens in the wake of COVID-19, our services are needed now more than ever.

www.p2phelps.org



Volunteers The of P2P

Volunteers have always been at the heart of our mission, and the spirit of service has never been more alive at P2P! Our volunteers have helped P2P respond quickly to the COVID-19 outbreak - they have kept pace, working tirelessly to ensure that food and financial assistance is getting to those who need it.

One of those many volunteers is Fran Semel, a Stamford resident who has been volunteering at P2P for almost a year. In response to this crisis, Fran works four days a week, pre-packing bags and coordinating the new Door2Door home delivery program.

"We're all in this together, and it's been incredible to see how P2P has been able to respond to this crisis so quickly," Fran shares.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please contact Juri Garone at JuriGarone@p2pHelps.org.

COVID-19 Update Scholarship

P2P is currently accepting college and vocational scholarship applications! Our scholars need us now more than ever to make sure their hard work and motivation is not lost due to COVID-19. Most P2P Scholars are first generation college students, and the pandemic has merely reinforced what we have known for some time: that a college education is still the best pathway to economic stability.



PERSON-TO-PERSON

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Darien, CT 06820

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Stamford CT

“ In this very uncertain and scary time, it is comforting to know that P2P is on the front lines, delivering services just as they have for the last 50 years. ”
-P2P DONOR

How You Can Help



Virtual Food Drive: Support our Food Assistance Program and help ensure local families have access to fresh, nutritious food. Visit: give.p2pHelps.org/virtualfooddrive



Financial Contributions: Help us respond to this unfolding crisis. Your support will provide critical resources to our neighbors who are suffering. Visit: www.p2pHelps.org/donate



Gift Cards: Gift cards for area grocery stores in any denomination are welcome. They can be delivered to our Darien or Norwalk locations, Monday-Friday from 9-1.



Volunteers: Help is needed to pre-pack grocery bags for our food pantry clients. Packing is done following social distance protocols. Drivers are needed for our Door2Door contactless delivery program. Contact: JuriGarone@p2phelps.org.

If You Need Help

P2P offers food and emergency financial assistance to residents of Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.



If you are in need of assistance, please call 203-655-0048 for information.

CONNECT WITH US!
www.p2pHelps.org

@p2pHelps

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1864 Post Road, Darien: 203.655.0048

76 South Main, Norwalk: 203.939.1650

425 Fairfield Avenue, Stamford: 203.729.9111