



HAND IN HAND

A NEWSLETTER FROM PERSON-TO-PERSON

Stronger Together: Caring, Clients & Community



P2P CEO Nancy Coughlin, far right, joins pantry staff and volunteers at Darien site

A Message from Nancy and Mike

One of the most resounding realizations from the pandemic is that our community is stronger together. And together we can meet a monumental challenge head-on and support our community in a caring, compassionate, and life-changing way.

The past year has also compelled the P2P team to get creative in how we provide essential services to our clients, while maintaining the personal connections and relationships that set us apart. For example, the Door2Door home delivery that was launched shortly after the pandemic now represents 20% of our overall food assistance program.

We have also enhanced our on-site Unity Garden to make more fresh produce available in our pantries and developed new programs like 'clothing pop-ups' to enable clients to self-select clothing. These programs would not be possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteer network.

This newsletter shares a snapshot of how P2P has been here meeting the challenge of this crisis and providing for our community. We would also like to thank you for your valued and unwavering support of our mission.

As long as there is a need, P2P is here to help.

Nancy Coughlin
CEO

Mike Riccardi
P2P Board President

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Update Summer Camp

Summer camp is on!

We are happy to report that most P2P camp partners are open this summer, though with reduced capacity to meet safety guidelines.

Our goal is to provide summer camperships to as many local families as possible this year, to provide engaging activities for kids and peace of mind for parents.

In the Know Fundraisers

Support for P2P comes in all shapes and sizes. Even in the shape of 'small cars'.

The Small Car Company has now hosted two fun(d)raisers for P2P, to drive both awareness and raise funds to support our mission. The fun(d)raisers consist of an online fundraising page and a live event of an air-cooled small car road tour in New Canaan.

We are now firm believers that small cars have big hearts.

Pictured: Small Cars Company Fun(d)raiser, Zumbach's Gourmet Coffee, New Canaan, May 2021

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser? Contact our team at development@p2pHelps.org to get started.



Food Drives Re-Invented



Students from Tokanaka School donate to P2P's Souper Bowl Food Drive

P2P is providing more food than ever before, with a 71% increase in our food assistance program in the first 12 months of the pandemic. This represents more than TWO MILLION MEALS.

Food drives are an essential part of filling our pantries. The combination of increased assistance with higher food costs and fewer community and business food drives due the pandemic has facilitated a need to re-invent the traditional P2P food drive.

With this year's Stamp Out Hunger Postal Food Drive also postponed due to the pandemic, we have created alternatives to provide for the more than 68,000 lbs of food (enough food for 55,000 meals) that is typically collected.

Here are three easy ways you can help to keep our pantries stocked.

1. **Start a Virtual Food Drive.** Get help from your friends, family, co-workers and community networks by launching a Virtual Food Drive. Get started at p2pHelps.org/VFD
2. **Host a Food Drive.** The P2P team can assist you with signage, messaging, and pick-up. Hosting a food drive is a safe and fun way to get your neighborhood involved. Contact Rick Nixon at ricknixon@p2pHelps.org.
3. **Make a Financial Gift.** Have immediate impact with a donation today at p2pHelps.org/VFD



Darien Youth Commission hosted a drive-thru food drive

Fresh Food In the Garden

An important part of P2P's food programs is providing healthy, nutritious food. We are extremely fortunate to have access to a beautiful, fenced-in garden on the St. Luke's Church campus in Darien.

The 'Unity Garden' plays a special role at P2P, nourishing both body and mind. And thanks to the support of P2P Garden Committee, donors, community partners and volunteers, we were able to revamp the garden this year, maximizing its harvest to share with food pantry clients.

We look forward to a bounty of fresh produce this season, including lettuces, kale, swiss chard, beets, peas, potatoes, cucumbers, beans, and eggplant.



The Unity Garden's first harvest of the season!

Fresh Produce!
A welcome sign for our pantry clients offering fresh produce from the Unity Garden.



About Person-to-Person

Person-to-Person (P2P) is a non-profit agency dedicated to providing individuals and families with essential resources to help them overcome daily challenges and put them on a path toward economic stability. P2P serves 28,000 residents in Fairfield County with the following programs: three food pantries (Darien, Norwalk, Stamford), clothing center, caseworker assistance, emergency financial assistance, and scholarships/camperships. Established in 1968, P2P serves the communities of Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

Emergency Financial Assistance Keeping Families Safely Housed



The State of CT's UniteCT bus visited our Darien site to assist qualified CT households financially impacted by COVID-19

Emergency financial assistance increased an astounding 178% in the first 12 months of the pandemic. As the people we serve lost jobs, experienced reduced hours, or succumbed to COVID themselves, making their rent payments became more and more difficult. In the first 12 months following the start of the pandemic, P2P issued \$1,043,897 in emergency financial assistance, mostly for rent, to help keep families safely housed during this crisis.

Our COVID Response The First 365 Days

While no one could foresee the economic toll of the pandemic in our community, P2P was able to modify its processes and services immediately to ensure that anyone who asked for assistance received it. Supporting our community during this crisis would not be possible without our incredible team of staff and volunteers, community partners, and donors. We are confident that continuing to work together we can provide the essential services to the individuals and families most impacted by COVID.

See complete COVID stats at p2pHelps.org/providing-in-a-pandemic

Our casework team worked tirelessly to ensure that the people who needed support, got it.

Two such people are Victor and Marie. COVID-19 hit their family almost immediately; Victor was laid off from his job in March 2020. He returned to work in May, but with fewer hours, shifting from full-time pay to part-time. His job put him in contact with the public, and in November, Victor along with his wife and three young daughters all tested positive for COVID-19. Prior to getting sick, Victor and Marie did their best to make small payments toward rent, but as time went on, and trying to cover costs for other essentials and unexpected healthcare bills, they got behind.

P2P was able to assist them with their rent payments to ensure their family stayed safely housed during this crisis.

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



Volunteers OPUS for P2P

OPUS for P2P is an incredible organization that has made significant contributions to our community for 25 years!

During that time OPUS has raised over \$6.5 million to help local families meet essential needs. Simultaneously the group fostered an amazing community of women committed to giving back, led to long-lasting friendships, and helped us show our children the importance of using your time and talents to make a difference in your community.

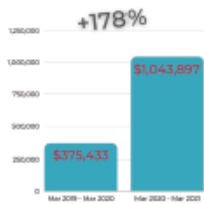
OPUS oversees fundraising for a number of programs, including Baby Basics and Summer Camperships. Thank you to OPUS for ensuring that young families in our community have access to resources for their children from newborn to elementary school.

Learn more at opus4p2p.org

Pictured: OPUS volunteers gathered to assemble Baby Basic layette bundles

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

12 Months Pre-COVID vs. 12 Months Post-COVID: March 2019 - March 2020 vs. March 2020 - March 2021
March 2020: Estimated amount of emergency financial assistance provided



TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED

12 Months Pre-COVID vs. 12 Months Post-COVID: March 2019 - March 2020 vs. March 2020 - March 2021
March 2020: Estimated amount of emergency financial assistance provided



Update Scholarship

This year's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship recipient was Imani Morgan, an astounding student at the University of Connecticut, with an individualized major of Health, Minorities, and Inequality. She is committed to bringing attention to, and create change for, communities that are adversely impacted by our current health care system.



PERSON-TO-PERSON

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Phil is Back! P2P is happy to announce the return of P2P on Wheels (aka: Phil the Food Truck). See schedule and locations at p2pHelps.org/phil2021

MAKE AN IMPACT with P2P

VOLUNTEER | DONATE | PARTNER



Volunteer. The perfect volunteer opportunity is waiting for you, with individual and group options available at all three P2P sites. Email Juri Garone at jurigarone@p2pHelps.org or visit p2pHelps.org/volunteer-opportunities/



Donate. Make a financial gift to have an immediate impact in our community, or consider launching a Virtual Food Drive to help fill our pantries. To discuss additional giving and fundraising options, please email Tracy Cramer at tracycramer@p2pHelps.org



Partner. P2P benefits from an extensive network of community and corporate partners, from volunteering to underwriting programs and events. Email development@p2pHelps.org or visit p2pHelps.org/other-ways-to-give to learn more.

Here to 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.

66 Thank you P2P for all you are doing to support neighbors in our community! We are so impressed with how donations to P2P start working immediately to make a material difference in people's lives.[®]
—Amy O., P2P Partner

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CONNECT WITH US!
www.p2pHelps.org

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