



Person to Person in a Nutshell

Person to Person's Mission Statement: P2P is a community-supported agency which provides individuals and families with assistance for basic needs to overcome daily challenges and access to resources to improve their lives.

Person to Person's Vision Statement: Communities of educated, financially stable, and hunger-free homes for all.

Person to Person's Values:

Community: We honor the contributions of all.

Volunteers: Service is the heart of the organization.

Integrity: We are honest, fair, responsible, and ethical.

Respect: We treat everyone who walks through the doors with dignity.

Quality: We are committed to what we do, and we do it well.

Background and History

Person to Person (P2P) is a community-supported agency that provides emergency assistance for basic needs and support for individuals and families as they move towards stability. Founded out of the pain following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, by a group of parishioners at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien, the organization began in two closets with volunteers distributing used clothing and canned food to those in need. Over the years, services have grown to advance the agency's overarching vision: "Communities of financially-stable, hunger-free homes, with educational opportunities for all."

In 2015, P2P merged with Christian Community Action, more than doubling our food distribution and expanding services to the Norwalk community. The Norwalk pantry is located at 76 South Main Street.

In 2018, P2P launched P2P on Wheels, a mobile pantry that brings nutritious food to residents of Stamford's most in-need Neighborhoods. The launch of P2P on Wheels increased P2P's food distribution by an additional 50%.

During the economic downturn precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic, P2P's food distribution jumped by an additional 70%. In the period between 2010 and 2020, P2P's food distribution increased from 134,500 meals to 1,900,000 meals.

P2P's website is www.p2pHelps.org. Follow us on Instagram @persontopersonct, and Facebook at Person to Person.

P2P serves the Lower Fairfield County towns of Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Wilton, and Westport with sites in Darien, Norwalk and *P2P On Wheels*, our innovative Mobile Food Pantry and warehouse in Stamford.

P2P's operating budget for fiscal year 2021 is approximately \$15M with \$5M in cash contributions and \$10M in in-kind donations. P2P relies on over 4,000 volunteers to provide services throughout the year and they contribute 84,000 hours of their time. This allows over 90% of donations to go directly to clients.

This year alone, P2P's work will touch the lives of nearly 29,000 individuals – including 11,000 children – in Stamford, Norwalk, Darien, New Canaan, Westport, Wilton, and Weston. The agency's core programs are as follows:

- Emergency Assistance Program: At the heart of P2P's mission, the Emergency Assistance Program meets essential needs of low-income and food-insecure individuals and families living in Lower Fairfield County. The Emergency Assistance Program assists clients through their situational crises by providing counseling, emergency financial assistance, nutritious food through three food pantries (including P2P on Wheels), clothing assistance and various additional forms of assistance such as Baby Basics and Holiday Toy Store. The program helps prevent problems from becoming worse and helps tie together community resources and our partner agencies.
- Campership Program: Working with school guidance counselors and through an on-site registration program, P2P's campership program sends children from low-income families to local day camps during the summer, allowing parents to continue to work knowing their children are safe and cared for. During the summer of 2019, Person to Person funded camperships for approximately 400 children, primarily from the Stamford Public Schools, ensuring they spent their summer days in a fun and engaging environment with access to academic enrichment. During the pandemic, the number of campers was limited to 155 in 2020 and approximately 225 in 2021.
- Scholarship Program: The P2P Scholarship Program's overarching goal is to help students change the trajectory of their lives by achieving a college education, so the next generation moves out of poverty. Eligible high school graduates receive scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to help bridge the gap between the money needed to attend college and the total amount a student has available.

For the 2020 -2021 school year, P2P awarded 104 scholarships. P2P's graduation rates of >80% are far ahead of comparable national rates for students in general, at 60% and those from low-income backgrounds, which hover at 16%.

The *Mentoring 4 Success* Program awards a select group of incoming freshmen a scholarship of \$5,000 a year and matches each student with a trained, dedicated mentor who will support them through all four years of college. The *Mentoring 4 Success* program has been a great success, with high-performing students and graduation rates approaching 100%.

Service on the Board of Directors

The Person to Person Board meets 6 - 7 times annually. The meetings are usually held at P2P Darien.

The Board of Directors of Person to Person directs the affairs of the agency in accordance with its mission, including: hiring and overseeing the Chief Executive Officer; evaluating long-term strategy; approving budgets and major capital expenditures; ensuring the integrity of financial statements and internal controls; ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards; overseeing the agency's management of risk; assisting in obtaining financial and other resources and determining governance practices.

To this end, Board members are expected to be prepared for and attend all Board meetings and serve on at least one Board committee, participate in development, fundraising and friend-raising functions, volunteer at P2P throughout the year, and to introduce colleagues and friends to P2P. Board members are expected to make an annual financial contribution and make P2P one of their top three charity recipients.