

P2P PROGRAMS

BASIC NECESSITIES: FOOD AND CLOTHING

Although many of our clients are employed, many of them are unable to make ends meet. Basic necessities such as clothing, food and some basic household items are distributed to these clients to help reduce the financial burden of basic living expenses.

Clothing

The Clothing Center is a well-organized “free store” for our clients to shop for seasonal clothing and household items. There are no restrictions for the clothing center. Clients may visit the center, by appointment, every 28 days.

Food

P2P operates three food pantries. Clients select fresh and shelf-stable items from a menu based on family size. Each family receives enough food for three meals a day for each member of the family, for up to seven days. Clients do not need a referral and are able to come to one of our three pantries every 28 days. Pantries are located in Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford.

The Stamford pantry is a mobile pantry that visits six Stamford neighborhoods each week. *P2P on Wheels* is designed with refrigeration and freezers to allow clients to self-select from the same array of food available in P2P’s brick-and-mortar pantries. Casework is also available on *P2P on Wheels*.

Baby Basics

Social workers at Stamford Hospital refer new mothers who need basic baby supplies to Person to Person. OPUS raises money for the supplies (bibs, bottles, clothing, diapers and toys/rattles), and OPUS volunteers assemble layettes and deliver them to the hospital twice a week. OPUS also provides new infant car seats if needed. In addition, a supply of layettes is delivered periodically to Norwalk Hospital for social workers to distribute as needed.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consistent with other agencies across the state, Person to Person is seeing an increase in the need for financial assistance. Unlike some other agencies, P2P has the unique ability to respond quickly to changing needs and situations.

Grants

P2P caseworkers provide short-term financial assistance to clients for rent, utilities, security deposits and child care. They also provide medical grants for expenses such as prescriptions, eye glasses and co-pays. Clients meet with caseworkers who assess need, work on budgeting, and help clients plan for the future so that P2P’s assistance will help resolve the problem.

Casework

P2P caseworkers provide support, information and referrals to clients to address their short term needs and increase their ability to achieve stability.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Dove Program

For more than 25 years, Person to Person has sponsored the Dove Program, which makes it possible for more than 630 area families to receive holiday boxes. The boxes contain food for Christmas day. The boxes are provided by the members of approximately 20 churches in Stamford, Darien and New Canaan, and distributed to clients of more than 10 social service agencies in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Holiday Toy Store

Person to Person sets up a Christmas Toy Store in the Youth & Community Center at St. Luke's Church in Darien for clients who have used Person to Person's services at least six times during the year. Parents make an appointment to come and "shop" for a new gift and book for each of their children. In addition, each family selects a board game. Our free toy store is stocked with the latest toys and books for infants through high school students, because P2P believes that every parent should have the opportunity to be "Santa" for Christmas.

Goods for Good

During the holiday season, area business and corporations donate new household goods and clothing to Person to Person. Caseworkers then distribute the items to clients, as needed, throughout the year.

Thanksgiving

Community agencies and P2P Caseworkers identify families who would not otherwise be able to afford a Thanksgiving Dinner. Person to Person provides them with all the necessities to cook a Thanksgiving meal; from potatoes, to pie, to a turkey complete with roasting pan.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Education is an important part of P2P's efforts to help clients improve their lives. In the 2019-2020 scholarship year, Person to Person distributed \$285,000 in tuition assistance to 104 students. This includes four \$5,000 scholarships to the first recipients of The John and Ethel Kashulon Scholarship for students pursuing vocational degrees.

The Scholarship Fund

This Scholarship Fund was established more than 35 years ago to encourage and motivate as many low-income students as possible from Lower Fairfield County to pursue their education beyond high school. Scholarship awards are designed to bridge the gap between the full cost of attending school and what the participants are able to raise from other sources. One of the hallmarks of the program is Person to Person's effort to support the students for their full academic career providing they maintain their status as students "in good standing."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships

Two scholarships are given annually on Martin Luther King Day at celebrations in Stamford and Norwalk. These awards are made to seniors who best exemplify leadership, scholarship, community service, and the ability to articulate their ideals.

Lockhart Family Charitable Trust & Napolitano Family Scholarships

Students may also apply for these special scholarships if they meet certain eligibility requirements. The Lockhart Family Scholarship is a \$5,000 annual award available to a student who achieves a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must submit an essay along with their Person to Person scholarship application describing their plans for the future and why they believe they should be selected to receive the award.

The Napolitano Family Scholarship was established in 2005 and is funded through the Janet Evans Endowment Fund. The amount available for scholarships is based on the value and performance of the Endowment Fund. This award, currently \$5,000, is granted to a student with an excellent academic record who has a commitment to learning and a dedication to success. Napolitano Family Scholarship applicants must achieve a GPA of 3.0 or higher and must complete a brief questionnaire.

STEM, Reath Family, ELH and H2T Scholarships

Students may also apply for these special scholarships if they meet certain eligibility requirements. The STEM Scholarship is available to upperclassmen studying science, technology, engineering and math. The Reath Family Scholarship is available to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. Both garner a \$5,000 award. The ELH Scholarship is available to students who are parents returning to school or to students facing or having faced a significant family illness and provides a \$2,000 award. The Here-to-There Scholarship is open to students that were active in Future 5 and provides a \$2,500 Scholarship.

Mentoring4Success Scholarship

This scholarship is available to a small cohort of students each year who wish to work collaboratively with a mentor throughout their four years of college in order to maximize the potential for a successful college career. Each student will receive a \$5,000 annual award for the four years they are in college and in the Mentoring4Success Scholarship program making their total award \$20,000. 2012 marked the first year this scholarship was available.

Students who are not awarded any of these special scholarships are eligible to receive the Person to Person scholarship.

The John and Ethel Kashulon Scholarship

In the 2019/2020 school year, Person to Person collaborated with The John and Ethel Kashulon Foundation to provide four \$5,000 scholarships to students pursuing one-year skilled trade degrees. For the 2020/2021 school year, funding was increased to provide \$5,000 scholarships to 10 students on a rolling basis.

With the rising cost of college education, the traditional two- or four- year degree is not the right fit for everyone. Our hope is that recipients will be able to complete their vocational education and begin their career with less debt.

To be eligible, students must demonstrate financial need and live within our service area, which extends to Fairfield and Bridgeport for this scholarship only. Priority will be given to students pursuing degrees in automotive, plumbing, electrical, welding or machinery-manufacturing.

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

Summer camp is a necessity for children of low-income families living in Stamford, not a luxury. Parents need to know their children are in a safe environment so they can work. In 2019, Person to Person will send approximately 400 elementary school children from low-income families in Stamford to 16 different local summer day camps during July and August. P2P also supports 24 elementary school children in Norwalk in attending a local camp.

The Application Process

Stamford Public School social workers identify eligible children in grades K - 5 with the greatest need and refer them to the campership program. Additionally, an application is opened on a first come, first served basis for parents to complete, allowing approximately 50 families, who may not have been referred by a social worker, to request a spot in the program. Referrals and applications are prioritized by need, using a point system. Person to Person volunteers help the parents select the appropriate camp and to complete the necessary forms. Families are asked to pay a \$25 registration and processing fee if they are able.

Costs

Every year the cost of camperships is negotiated individually with each camp; this year the average cost to send a child to camp is just under \$700. Camps work hard to keep the cost to Person to Person down. In certain instances, P2P's support of camp fees helps support the budgets of camps and insures that they are available for even more children.

In 2019, P2P distributed approximately \$220,000 in camp grants to support 400 students. Due to the pandemic, many camps did not operate in 2020. Nonetheless, P2P was able to send 150 students to camp.

The Campership Program is Unique:

1. No other organization sends as many children to such a broad range of camps.
2. Parents can choose camps that meet their needs.
3. Parents pay only a registration fee, and that fee is waived if necessary.
4. Volunteer involvement in the program allows the entire budget of campership funds to be used directly for the cost of camp.

5. Camps are visited by staff and volunteers over the summer to learn more about the programs, to assure quality programs for the campers and to maintain strong relationships with camp personnel.