

hand inhand



A Newsletter from Person to Person: Winter 2022



A Message from Nancy and Mike

Dear Friends,

As we collectively turn the page to a new year and many of us look forward to a more “normal” time to come, we would like to share with you some highlights from the past months at Person to Person.

Inside this newsletter we invite you to enjoy updates about our Scholarship and Campership programs, Toy Store, volunteering and more. You will learn about the 70% surge in demand for services and our pandemic response, and how our casework team provided support and guidance to help people navigate this unprecedented crisis. Finally, we hope you will gain an appreciation of how we achieve our mission only with the help of activated volunteers and vital community support.

In the face of continued economic uncertainty and rising inflation in the months to come, P2P will continue to play a critical role in helping Fairfield County residents achieve stability. We invite you to join us by sharing this newsletter, visiting one of our three locations, and learning about how you can get involved: volunteer, host a drive, and if you can, please consider a financial gift. We are grateful for you!

Warmly,


Nancy Coughlin
CEO


Mike Riccardi
P2P Board President

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

“

I am grateful
and thankful
for Person to
Person.

*Gwendolyn, P2P Client
at Thanksgiving Meal
Distribution*

”

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. p2pHelps.org

Update Scholarships

Education can play an instrumental role in closing the equity gap. P2P is committed to help make secondary education possible for highly motivated, low-income students in lower Fairfield County through its annual scholarship program.

Over the past eight years alone, P2P has awarded \$3 million in scholarship grants to nearly 400 students.

Join us in congratulating our 2021 scholarship recipient graduates!

Oriana C.	Morgan State University
Marthe G.	Molloy College
Emily M.	Penn State University
Minasdrine R.	Fairfield University
Nicolas V.	Temple University
Fahmida A.	University of Connecticut
Elsa A.	University of Connecticut
Carlos A.	University of Pennsylvania
Eyline C.	University of Connecticut
Shelcie C.	University of Hartford
Mandy C.	University of Connecticut
Destiny E.	Western Conn State Univ.
Nickaelle F.	Central Conn State Univ.
Samantha F.	University of Connecticut
Jarny E.	Plymouth State University
Joane J.	Western Conn State Univ.
Cayla J.	Clark Atlanta University
Daniel L.	University of Connecticut
Robin L.	University of Connecticut
Laura M.	University of Connecticut
Imani M.	University of Connecticut
Andrea P.	Southern Conn State Univ.
Lila S.	Loyola University
Gregory V.	University of Connecticut
Chloe Q.	Boston University

Pictured: 2022 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Recipient Michael Hernandez



Update New Look of P2P



P2P unveiled its new logo and website in November 2021 at our Norwalk site. The event was co-hosted by board member and Norwalk's first lady Lucia Rilling and attended by representatives of The Velaj Foundation, which generously underwrote the launch of the new website, as well as elected officials, including State Senator Bob Duff, State Representative Lucy Dathan, State Representative Matt Blumenthal, and Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling.

P2P would like to extend a sincere thanks to Karl Maruyama, the local graphic designer who developed the new look. In addition to creating the inspiring new look, Karl was so moved by the scope and heart of P2P's work that he graciously donated his services.

Pictured: P2P team members, P2P CEO Nancy Coughlin, and P2P Board President Mike Riccardi

Community & Clients Keep Norwalk Warm

P2P held its annual winter coat distribution event in November 2021 at the South Norwalk Community Center. This year's event saw a record 1,913 coats distributed to 421 families. Special thanks to event sponsor Beiersdorf, Inc. the Office of the Mayor of Norwalk, all our corporate and community partners who organized coat drives, our beloved reception volunteers for scheduling all the appointments, and to the volunteers who gave their time assisting clients during the event.

Pictured: P2P client Juliet with the coats she selected at this year's Keep Norwalk Warm event

Stamford Pantry The Return of Phil



The P2P mobile food pantry and social services truck, P2P on Wheels (aka 'Phil the Truck'), re-opened in July 2021. While the truck was temporarily parked in our warehouse during the height of the pandemic, we partnered with local agencies to ensure ongoing food distribution.

P2P on Wheels offers healthy, nutritious groceries, including fresh produce, dairy items, meat and poultry, and shelf-stable goods. For residents requesting casework services, a P2P caseworker will meet with clients to assess immediate need to help them plan for the future while providing financial assistance for items such as rent.

Pictured: P2P Stamford Site and Food Manager Rick Nixon being interviewed by NBC 4 New York's Lynda Baquero



New Program Summer Meals for Children

For many students, school meals are a vital source of food. To make sure these children have uninterrupted access to healthy meals during the summer months, P2P launched a summer meals program for students. The program provided 2,415 individual children with healthy meals, distributed via our extensive food program.

The program is thanks to a generous \$50,000 grant from the Fairfield County Business Collaborative for Education Equity, in partnership with Fairfield County's Community Foundation.

By the Numbers

P2P Impact in 2021

While 2021 was an extremely challenging year for so many, the dedication of volunteers and support from the community allowed P2P to respond to record demand for services by surpassing multiple bittersweet milestones in the level of support we provided. We are continually moved by the generosity of the community and the resilience of our clients.

Here is a snapshot of some the amazing things we accomplished together in 2021:

-  Distributed enough healthy groceries for more than **TWO MILLION MEALS**
-  Provided more than **\$1 MILLION** in emergency and rent-related financial relief
-  Empowered 100 college students with scholarships and adult mentorships
-  Made it possible for 225 local children to attend summer camp
-  Provided 1,500 households with holiday meals during the Thanksgiving holiday
-  Provided clothing assistance to over 1,000 households each month
-  Distributed new car seats & layettes to 100 parents of newborns



Volunteers

The Heart of P2P

Volunteers are the engine that drives everything we do. And more importantly, volunteers are an extension of our P2P community, whether you join us for one day or every day. Kind and compassionate service to others is at the heart of what we do on the P2P TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More).

As the pandemic continued in 2021, P2P volunteers stepped in hour after hour to support our clients. More than 600 volunteers devoted a total of 36,890 hours to P2P and our community. Thank you, volunteers!

Pictured: Members of the Darien site pre-pack crew; Joan, Linda, Markus and Maureen



Making Magic Happen

Holiday Toy Store

The holiday season at P2P is a time of joy and generosity. Each year, the P2P Toy Store makes magic happen for low-income children in lower Fairfield County. This annual event ensures that no parent has to face the holiday season without gifts for their children.

This year's Toy Store provided gift bundles for 1,900 children. Each bundle included a book, a game, stuffed animal, and gift card.

The event is only made possible due to the generosity of our donor community and the hard work of the Toy Store Committee. Thank you!

Pictured: Members of the P2P Toy Store Committee (L-R)--Amy, Lisa, Victoria, Jeremy, Nicole and Martha

Update

Campership

Your commitment to P2P's Campership program made it possible for 225 local children to attend summer camp in 2021.

This program is vital for two reasons. First, it provides a fun and enriching summer experience for kids. Second, it enables parents to continue working with their children in a safe, nurturing environment.

Special thanks to OPUS for Person to Person for spearheading the awareness and fundraising campaign, Blooms for Campers, for this valuable program. Learn more about Campership and OPUS at opus4p2p.org

Pictured: Top--Campers learn about gardening during P2P Camp Day from P2P Unity Garden's master gardener, and even sampled fresh garden veggies; Bottom--Campers from ROSCCO in Stamford attend Boat Day at Noroton Yacht Club, hosted by Darien Sail and Power Squadron

“
It's wonderful.
I believe in
Santa now.
P2P Client
Holiday Toy Store 2021
”



person to person

1864 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820

GET INVOLVED!

There are so many ways to make an impact with P2P and the clients we serve. Whether you choose to volunteer, donate, or partner--you will change lives. Learn more at p2pHelps.org



save the date

April 21 A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS WITH P2P, THE VILLAGE, STAMFORD

May 7 OPUS RUNS FOR THE ROSES, COUNTRY CLUB OF DARIEN

June 2 2ND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, THE STANWICH CLUB, GREENWICH

P2PHELPS.ORG/EVENTS

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