

# hand inhand



A Newsletter from Person to Person: Winter 2024



Dear friends,

As we step into a new year filled with hope and possibilities, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support. Your generosity has been instrumental in making a positive impact on the lives of our neighbors throughout lower Fairfield County.

However, the start of this new year also sheds light on the pressing challenges faced by our community. Shockingly, 12% of our neighbors, including 26,200 children, are grappling with food insecurity. Additionally, among renter households, 49% in Stamford and 47% in Norwalk are burdened by housing costs, allocating 30% or more of their income toward rent.

Your past support has been a beacon of hope, and we are immensely thankful. As we move forward, the need for continued support remains crucial. Your ongoing commitment can bring about positive change, providing vital assistance to those in need.

Thank you for being a part of our mission. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our community members.

With gratitude,

  
Nancy Coughlin  
CEO

“

*It gives us more peace of mind to know that we have a place where we can have food, clothes, and sometimes help for rent. Thank you very much.*

*Doris, P2P Client*

”

Person to Person (P2P) is a non-profit agency with a vision of thriving, hunger-free homes. P2P supports families and individuals as they move toward stability with healthy food, clothing, housing assistance, and a path to economic security. P2P serves 28,000 residents in lower Fairfield County annually with essential resources including: three food pantries (Darien, Norwalk, Stamford), clothing center, caseworker assistance, emergency financial assistance, Financial Opportunity Center® (FOC), scholarships/mentorships, camperships, infant layettes, and holiday programs. [p2pHelps.org](http://p2pHelps.org)

## By the Numbers

# P2P Impact in 2023

Thanks to our amazing partners, volunteers, donors, and staff, P2P made a significant impact in lower Fairfield County in fiscal year 2023 (July 2022- June 2023).

Here is a snapshot of our efforts towards our mission of providing essential resources to thousands of individuals:



Serving  
28,000  
individuals



Food for  
2.5 million  
meals



\$850,00+  
in emergency  
financial  
assistance



Financial and  
career coaching  
for 168 people



45,600 bags  
of clothes



300+  
camperships  
for kids

## Community Compassion Coat Drive Collab.

Kimberly Tapscott, realtor and associate partner at Keller Williams Prestige Properties, and Frank Policastro, owner of Crescent Cleaners, collaborated to donate 120 coats for Person to Person's annual coat drive. Tapscott collected the coats, and Policastro graciously cleaned them, showcasing their ongoing commitment to community service and compassion for those in need.



## Community Service MLK Scholarship



Martine Prevot, a senior at UConn in Storrs, is this year's recipient of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. Recognized for her dedication to community service, social justice, and leadership, Martine, a Communications major with a minor in Women and Gender Studies, has actively volunteered with P2P, Stamford Public Education Foundation, and First Haitian Free Methodist Church of Stamford.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, P2P presented Martine with the scholarship, acknowledging her outstanding commitment to embodying the principles championed by Rev. Dr. King.

*Pictured: Mrs. Josephine Anderson, Martine Prevot and P2P CEO Nancy Coughlin.*

## Brightening the Holidays 48th Toy Store

Thanks to generous donors, the P2P "Toy Store" brought joy to over 1,700 children this holiday season. The opening ceremony featured the Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts Choir, Miss Connecticut Karla Aponte Roque, and local elected officials.

Thanks to all who made the Toy Store possible, creating lasting memories for families in our community.

## Join Us! Rock N' Raise



Join us on Thursday, April 4 at The Loading Dock, situated alongside P2P's Stamford warehouse and mobile food pantry, for an unforgettable evening: Rock N' Raise. The event will include cocktails, dinner and live music by The Nerds—an electrifying rock n' roll cover band.

Funds raised support P2P's programs that offer area residents the opportunity for a financially stable future.



To get your tickets or secure your sponsorship scan the QR code or visit [p2pHelps.org/RNR](http://p2pHelps.org/RNR).



*Pictured: Toy Store volunteers help P2P clients shop for their children.*

**SAVE THE DATE!** P2P is teaming up with the National Association of Letter Carriers for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 11th. Residents in Darien, Norwalk, Stamford, and Wilton should look for details coming soon. Every donation, regardless of size, contributes to stocking our pantry shelves and supporting those in need in our community!



## Camp Dreams Supporting Kids



P2P Camperships offer local school children the opportunity to attend summer day camps, fostering life skills, friendships, and fun. The program brings peace of mind to working parents, addressing childcare concerns and ensuring a safe and engaging experience for their children.

Thanks to OPUS 4 P2P's "Blooms for Campers" campaign, 314 children enjoyed camperships last summer. In April, OPUS will begin fundraising for 2024 camperships. Your donation will create enriching summers for kids and provide assurance for working parents.



## Volunteers The Heart of P2P



Volunteer with P2P in the new year and make a difference! Join us at any of our three sites for a meaningful experience. Opportunities include:

- Clothing Center (Darien)
- Mobile Pantry (Stamford)
- Main Office Reception (Darien)
- Warehouse Support (Stamford)
- Food Pantry (Darien & Norwalk)
- Delivery Drivers for Door2Door
- Van Drivers to Pick Up Donations

Visit [p2pHelps.org/volunteer](https://p2pHelps.org/volunteer) or email [sarahdemark@p2pHelps.org](mailto:sarahdemark@p2pHelps.org).

*Pictured: Volunteer Meryl Rosenfeld*

## P2P Events Transforming Lives Luncheon

On October 20th, we hosted our annual Transforming Lives Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrea Elliott as our featured speaker. The event successfully raised over \$200,000 to support families and individuals as they move toward stability with healthy food, clothing, housing assistance, and a path to economic opportunity.

At the luncheon, Katerine Gonzalez, a Stamford resident and Junior at the University of Connecticut, shared her personal journey as a client of P2P.

*Pictured: Top-- Tracey Ricardi, event co-chair, Katerine Gonzalez, P2P Client, Andrea Elliott, Tina Mazullo, event co-chair, Nancy Coughlin, P2P CEO. Bottom-- Katerine Gonzalez (Photo credit: Cara Gilbride)*

## Dynamic Partnerships Corporate Giving

In the last six months, 54 local corporations and civic groups actively supported P2P through both volunteering and financial contributions. P2P extends an invitation to corporate and civic groups to partake in a purposeful day of service at any of our locations, fostering collaboration that creates an immediate impact on the community. For more information or to sign up, contact Juri Garone at [jurigarone@p2pHelps.org](mailto:jurigarone@p2pHelps.org).



The Toy Store spirit kicked in when the volunteers from State Street Global Advisors arrived, turning the Anderson Youth and Community Center into a haven of holiday joy, hope, and wonder. Their annual arrival has become a cherished tradition we eagerly anticipate!



Tackling the Toy Store wishlist for the 12 to 15 age group is always a challenge, but thanks to Conair's thoughtful donations of popular hair care and grooming products, P2P's teenagers had a great selection this year!



persontoperson

1864 Post Road  
Darien, CT 06820

You can make an immediate and meaningful  
impact by contributing to P2P today.  
**Scan to donate.**



*save the date*

April 4 **ROCK N' RAISE SPRING BENEFIT**

[p2pHelps.org](http://p2pHelps.org) | [info@p2pHelps.org](mailto:info@p2pHelps.org) [f @p2pHelps](https://www.facebook.com/p2pHelps) [@persontopersonct](https://www.instagram.com/persontopersonct) [in @person-to-person](https://www.linkedin.com/company/person-to-person)

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