

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 60 days.

Food

P2P operates four 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 eight 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 childcare. They also provide medical grants for expenses such as prescriptions, eyeglasses 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.

Financial Opportunity Center® (FOC)

FOCs are career and financial coaching service centers that help families living on a low to moderate income build sustaining careers and achieve financial success. The cornerstone of LISC's FOC model is providing services in an integrated way – rather than as stand-alone services – with a long-term commitment to helping clients reach their goals. The program provides three integrated service pillars: employment coaching, one-on-one financial coaching, and income support services with a long-term commitment to helping you reach your goals. P2P was selected to become the 6th FOC in CT-serving the greater Stamford community.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**Dove Program**

For more than 50 years, Person to Person has sponsored the Dove Program, which makes it possible for more than 1300 area families to receive a Shop Rite gift card. 12 churches and one school in Stamford, Darien and New Canaan, raise funds to then obtain Shop Rite gift cards for clients of 7 social services agencies in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, including P2P clients.

Holiday Toy Store

Person to Person sets up a Holiday Toy Store in the Anderson Youth & Community Center at St. Luke's Parish in Darien for clients who have used Person to Person's services at least three 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 businesses 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 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 2023-2024 scholarship year, Person to Person distributed \$197,500 in tuition assistance to 68 students.

The Scholarship Fund

This Scholarship Fund was established more than 50 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

One scholarship are given annually on Martin Luther King Day at the celebration in Stamford. This award is made to a senior who best exemplify leadership, scholarship, community service, and the ability to articulate their ideals.

Lockhart Family Charitable Trust Scholarships

Students may also apply for this special scholarship 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.

P2P STEM, and ELH Scholarships

Students may also apply for these special scholarships if they meet certain eligibility requirements. The P2P STEM Scholarship is available to upperclassmen studying science, technology, engineering and math. 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.

Mentoring4Success Scholarship

This scholarship is available to a small cohort of students each year who wish to collaborate 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.

Napolitano Family Scholarship

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.

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 2025, Person to Person will send approximately 240 elementary school children from low-income families in Stamford to 15 different local summer day camps during July and August.

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 additional 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.

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 about \$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 ensures that they are available for even more children.

In 2024, P2P distributed approximately \$150,000 in camp grants to support 250 students.

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. Volunteer involvement in the program allows the entire budget of campership funds to be used directly for the cost of camp.
4. 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.