



Person-to-Person

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Person-to-Person Receives Grant  
from Fairfield County Community Foundation  
to Launch *Outreach and Innovation* Program**

**Darien CT, April 25, 2011**– Last month, the Board of the Fairfield County Community Foundation voted to grant \$30,000 to Person-to-Person to fund a new initiative the agency is launching to reach individuals and families in need of emergency assistance.

Based upon findings from a strategic assessment of the agency’s programs and services, which identified specific barriers that limit a person’s ability to achieve self-sufficiency and demonstrated that an in-depth collaborative effort would offer the opportunity for a person to overcome a significant number of these barriers, Person-to-Person is launching the *Outreach and Innovation* program.

Through this pilot program, a bilingual (English/Spanish) caseworker will be located at Domus in Stamford for three half-days each week. Working alongside Domus family advocates and the community outreach worker, the P2P caseworker will offer on-the-spot access to services available at Person-to-Person – including assessments, referrals to the agency’s Emergency Food Pantry, appointments at the P2P Clothing Center, determining how best to meet the client’s immediate emergency financial needs and scheduling future casework appointments. The P2P caseworker also will work to identify those clients who will benefit from more intensive work, which will be offered in conjunction with the services provided by Domus family advocates and, when appropriate, will focus on vocational counseling and include referrals made to job-training programs.

Marina Thomas, P2P Director of Social Services, points out that Domus often refers clients to Person-to-Person, as do many social services agencies in the area. But for a variety of reasons, the clients do not always take the next step by contacting P2P. “With a P2P caseworker onsite at Domus, we will not only eliminate one of the hurdles, we will also be able to provide much-needed assistance almost immediately.”

The Fairfield County Community Foundation has long supported the P2P mission and programs, and the funding for this pilot program is particularly welcome. “With this grant, we will be able to reach – and help – more people,” observes Thomas, “providing them with the basic necessities and resources to improve their lives.”



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### ***About Fairfield County Community Foundation***

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$120 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

### ***About Person-to-Person***

Person-to-Person, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, was originally established in 1968 by St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien. Its mission was simple: to bring together the needs of people in disadvantaged areas of nearby communities with the resources of people in Darien and the surrounding areas, thereby providing basic emergency services to low-income individuals and families living in lower Fairfield County. A volunteer-driven agency, Person-to-Person is committed to helping clients achieve self-sufficiency through practical help, advocacy, education and problem-solving initiatives. Programs include Emergency Assistance, Campership and Scholarship. In 2009, Person-to-Person helped 24,780 people avert crisis and make ends meet. These efforts are made possible by in-kind donations, a force of more than 2,000 volunteers and financial contributions. More information can be found on the web at [www.p2pdarien.org](http://www.p2pdarien.org) or by calling (203) 655-0048.

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