



Person-to-Person

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Person-to-Person Awards Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships
to Jazmin Powell and Lisa Lacen-Romero**



MLK Jr. Scholar Jazmin Powell with Congressman Jim Himes



MLK Jr. Scholar Lisa Lacen-Romero

Darien CT, February 14, 2011 – One of the most successful initiatives at Person-to-Person is the Scholarship Program, which was established in 1968 to provide financial assistance to college students from low-income households, many of whom are among the first in their family to pursue higher education.

During the past five years alone, Person-to-Person has granted over \$1.6 million in scholarship assistance to more than 350 college students through the Harriet McCorkle Scholarship Fund, the Lockhart Family Charitable Trust Scholarship, the Napolitano Family Scholarship Fund and the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

The award bearing the name of Dr. King has particular significance given his own academic achievements and his belief that education allowed people to break free from the “...miserable culture of poverty.”

With the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship, each year Person-to-Person recognizes the considerable achievements of two college seniors who demonstrate a high degree of integrity and responsibility and a commitment to community service. In recognition of their accomplishments, the students are each awarded \$1,000 for their use.



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Jazmin Powell: A graduate of Norwalk High School – where she participated in a variety of extracurricular activities ranging from cheerleading and varsity lacrosse to the African-American Culture Club and Junior ROTC, and served as class president in her junior year – Powell is a senior at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut. Majoring in Liberal Studies with a minor in Education, Powell is currently applying to graduate schools where she plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in School Counseling. In addition to her academic studies, she formed the Mitchell College cheerleading squad, is a member of the Early Childhood Education Club, works at the college library and serves as treasurer of the Student Government Association.

Lisa Lacen-Romero: Breaking a generations-old practice in her family, Lacen-Romero is the first woman in her family to attend college and is pursuing a dual major of Psychology and Sociology at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. While attending Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, she was a member of the Poets and Writers Club and the National Honor Society. Lacen-Romero has continued her extracurricular activities at college, as a peer mentor, Resident Assistant, spring break Gulf Coast volunteer and executive board member of the Multicultural Identity Exploration and Black Student Union. For the past eight years, she has worked with children and infants having physical and mental disabilities as well as children from abusive homes and plans to become a child psychologist.

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 or by calling (203) 655-0048.

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