



Person-to-Person

PRESS RELEASE

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**The Person-to-Person Scholarship Program
Continues to Make a Difference in the Lives of Area College Students**

Darien CT, February 15, 2010 – Person-to-Person is well known for providing groceries and food at no cost to people in Stamford, Darien and New Canaan who are struggling to make ends meet. But one of the agency’s most successful efforts is its Scholarship Program, providing financial assistance to college students from low-income households, many of whom are the first in their family to pursue higher education, and giving them the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and need.

In 1968, P2P awarded its first scholarship to a young mother who subsequently graduated from New Haven College. More recently, a current board member at Person-to-Person who graduated college with a degree in social work, received her MSW from Fordham University and earned an advanced degree in counseling at Fairfield University was awarded scholarships by P2P to facilitate her journey through college toward self-sufficiency.

Over the past five years alone, Person-to-Person has granted nearly \$1.6 million in scholarship assistance to more than 700 college students through its Harriet McCorkle Scholarship Fund, the Lockhart Family Charitable Trust Scholarship, the Napolitano Family Scholarship Fund and the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

To many of the students receiving scholarship assistance, the award bearing the name of Dr. King has particular significance given his academic achievements (entering Morehouse College at the age of fifteen and graduating four years later, earning a second Bachelor’s degree at Crozer Theological Seminary, then studying at Harvard while attending Boston University where he completed his Ph.D.) and his dedication to expanding opportunities for those who live “...on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.”

For that reason, each year the Person-to-Person Scholarship Committee is especially pleased to select two students to receive this eponymous award.

Cathy Dinas, a 2005 graduate of Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, is currently attending the University of Connecticut where she is majoring in English with a minor in Women’s Studies. To enhance her experience and learning, Dinas has engaged in a variety of initiatives that touch the lives of many. In 2008, she traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she interned at the Esperanza Battered Families Shelter and developed education outreach programs on Safe Haven training. Closer to home,



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Dinas worked with the Landmark Education Forum to study homelessness in Norwalk, volunteered with the Carver Center Youth Development Program and Building with Books, presented an essay at the Martin Luther King Jr. Town and Gown Symposium last January and raised money for an organization promoting women's freedom in Iraq.

A 2006 graduate of Stamford High School who plans to pursue a career in Nursing, Rodna Anilus is majoring in Biology with an Art minor at Central Connecticut State University where she also serves a Resident Assistant. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she worked with the CCSU Habitat for Humanity Chapter in New Orleans. Anilus has volunteered as a teacher's assistant in the CCSU Partners in Science weekend program for elementary school children, tutored middle-school students in the after-school program at the Pathways Senderos Center in New Britain, volunteered at Stamford Hospital and assisted at the CCSU H1N1 flu clinic earlier this year.

Rodna Anilus and Cathy Dinas were recently honored in ceremonies attended by State and Federal elected officials, community leaders and Person-to-Person board members.



State Senator Bob Duff, P2P Board President Jan Smith, MLK Jr. Scholarship Recipient Cathy Dinas and P2P Scholarship Committee Chair Rebecca Wilson



MLK Jr. Scholarship Recipient Rodna Anilus, P2P Board President Jan Smith and U.S. Congressman Jim Himes

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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