



Person-to-Person

Spring 2010 Newsletter

A Busy Year: Person-to-Person Expansion Benefits Those Who Help and Are Helped.

For more than 40 years, Person-to-Person has been providing clothing, groceries, counseling, referrals and financial assistance to people who lack the basic necessities and resources to improve their lives.

The agency has always been nimble in response to the changing needs of the community it serves – by enhancing services, or by expanding its space.



With the number of clients increasing significantly – from 15,500 in 2004 to almost 25,000 in 2009 – and a growing need for Food Pantry and Clothing

Center appointments, there were still limitations that hindered the agency’s ability to meet rising demand. Caseworkers shared a single large office, with only two private rooms to meet with clients to discuss sensitive issues and exchange confidential information. The reception area was small and restricted the number of clients that could be served at any one time. A client (or volunteer) with a physical disability could not access the building, a significant concern.

Fortunately, as has happened many times in the agency’s history, changes on the Saint Luke’s Parish campus offered the opportunity for Person-to-Person to address these issues.

Emergency Food

Pantry: Following a renovation project that was fast and flawless, the new Emergency Food Pantry opened late last year ... giving the volunteers more room to work and allowing clients to make their own grocery selections, while providing a better drop-off area for food donations and ample space for food storage.



Clothing Center: Once the Food Pantry had been moved out of the basement and into the barn, the Clothing Center was refurbished ... making it brighter and roomier, with added shelving and storage, providing a larger area for volunteers working to sort and display donations and allowing for more clothing appointments on a daily basis.

Casework Offices: In April, we began the final phase of the improvement project ... renovation of the existing building to provide more space for client-related services and enhance the working environment for our volunteers. The first floor will accommodate a larger reception area and separate waiting area, there will be seven private offices for client interviews and the business offices will be moved to the second floor. An elevator will be installed, providing access for all to all three floors.



Throughout this time of change and growth, we continue to provide services to people who need a helping hand. And our clients benefit from the ongoing generosity of all who donate gently-used clothing and household items or non-perishable food, make cash contributions to the agency or volunteer their time.

We are proud of the work we accomplish at Person-to-Person – providing a path to self-sufficiency for our neighbors in need and enriching the larger community in which we all live.

We sincerely appreciate the financial assistance we have received from the Saint Luke’s Parish Building Campaign and the generosity of all who contributed to the Helping Hands Capital Campaign.

Planned Giving is a simple way to ensure a lasting legacy in your name.

Make a bequest to Person-to-Person through your will; name the agency as a beneficiary of your insurance policy or retirement assets; create a charitable trust. There are many planned giving options that will allow you to help P2P meet the needs of low-income families, during your lifetime and beyond.



A long-time supporter and volunteer who was board president emeritus and served on the advisory council made a specific bequest to Person-to-Person in his last will and testament. And last year a former client advised us that P2P was named as the beneficiary of her IRA.

To learn more about planned giving and how to leave a legacy to Person-to-Person, contact Diane Reese Tucker (dtucker@p2pdarien.org or 203-656-4631 x158).

“We were able to register an additional 100 children in the Campership Program thanks to the generosity of our donors.”

The Person-to-Person Campership Program sends hundreds of Stamford children who qualify for the free or reduced-price school lunch program to camp each summer. Through this program, low-income, working families – struggling to make ends meet and with very limited childcare options once the school year is over – have peace of mind knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment for six to eight weeks.



This year, we are sending 500 children to camp, at an average cost of \$600 per child, which is funded entirely through donations.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website at www.p2pdarien.org/donate.html or mail your check to Person-to-Person, 1864 Post Road, Darien CT 06820.

In 2009 – with the generous support of individuals, businesses, schools, organizations and foundations – Person-to-Person helped 24,780 men, women and children.



Throughout our history, P2P has been fortunate to have the help of local businesses.

Now one of the newest members of the Darien business community has reached out to support Person-to-Person.

Two days before the Darien store’s grand opening, Whole Foods Market hosted a special event to benefit Person-to-Person. Whole Foods Market also plans a variety of ongoing, in-store promotions to solicit contributions and food donations for P2P – including a customized P2P key fob that shoppers can swipe at checkout to donate \$1.00 to Person-to-Person.



There are many ways that you can lend a helping hand . . .

Join our volunteers in the *Clothing Center, Emergency Food Pantry and Reception Area* or help with *Holiday Programs*

Add non-perishable foods to your list *when grocery shopping or shop online at Pea Pod® for direct delivery*

Donate gently-used seasonal clothing, shoes and outerwear *for men, women, children and babies*, or small household items and appliances

For more information about how you can help, call or visit our website (203) 655-0048 | www.p2pdarien.org



Honorable Mention from the Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County for [l-r] Youth Volunteer Fayola Fleurantin, Emergency Food Pantry Volunteer Sheila McGovern and Clothing Center Volunteer Carol Fiorito, pictured with P2P Director of Volunteers Judy Kilmartin



“The P2P casework files are filled with stories of the people who come through the doors of Person-to-Person.”

– Christine Seid, Casework Assistant

Fred works part-time and Georgia is a certified nursing assistant, but they struggle to make ends meet. They first came to P2P needing help with a security deposit, which we granted. It was a modest amount, but still beyond their means. Years later, they returned to request a deposit for Section 8 housing and we provided a loan that was repaid promptly. Then their housing was lost due to foreclosure of the landlord’s building and they found themselves in need of assistance once again. With a \$500 loan to cover their security deposit, Fred, Georgia and their four children were able to find affordable housing and provide stability for their family.

“They may need groceries or clothing that will allow them to use their income for other basic expenses. They may need counseling to help with budgeting or to prepare for a job search.”

– Darcy Burgund, Caseworker

Linda has been battling chronic medical problems for years but was finally able to take on a full-time job, delighted to be financially stable. She started to put aside some money for savings when her hours were reduced due to the economic downturn. And then she was laid off. With unemployment benefits barely covering her rent, Linda soon exhausted her savings. With a grant from P2P she has been able to catch-up on her bills. Actively looking for work, Linda has enrolled in a computer training course to make herself more marketable.

“They may need financial assistance to get through a situational crisis, like many of the people we’ve seen in the past two years.”

– Cindy Pucci MS LPC, Caseworker

Paul and his family have been struggling financially due to his wife’s battle with cancer, which had forced her to stop working. Then the recession hit and Paul’s hours were cut, exacerbating an already difficult situation. To compensate for the shortfall and keep up with expenses, Paul has been working part-time on weekends but the family has still fallen behind on many of their household bills. To tide them over, the family applied for and was given a grant to cover basic utilities.

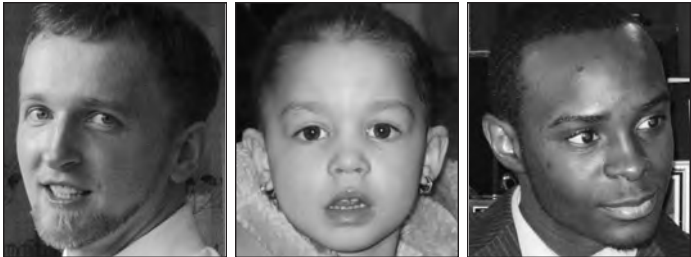
“But whatever the need, they all have one thing in common – a desire to work toward changing their lives for the better.”

– Anthony Montero, Caseworker

Laura’s first interaction with P2P was when her two children were referred to the Campership Program by the Stamford Public Schools. At that time, she contacted the Casework Office to inquire about other services and we soon learned that her financial troubles were fairly recent, precipitated by the disintegration of her marriage. With the financial assistance we provided, Laura was able to search for full-time employment and begin rebuilding a secure life for her children. Additional assistance helped pay for a training course that boosted her income as a nursing assistant. Laura now has plans to work toward a registered nursing degree.

“Over the past five years Person-to-Person has helped more than 103,000 people avert crisis and improve their lives. The need may seem overwhelming at times, particularly for those who come to us for help, but we continue our work to make a difference in the lives of others – one person at a time.”

– Marina Thomas MA LPC, Director of Social Services



**2010 Volunteers of the Year –
Rick Nixon and Tom Hagopian**



When more than 2,600 people volunteer 60,000 hours of their time, it is not easy to choose just one person as P2P Volunteer of the Year. That is why this year's honor was bestowed on

two of our volunteers.

Thomas Hagopian and Rick Nixon were recognized this year for their invaluable assistance in getting the new Emergency Food Pantry and the refurbished Clothing Center ready for business.

Rick and Tom rolled up their sleeves and set about measuring fixtures, assembling shelves, moving food into the new pantry and completing just about any task required of them; doing so with the level of enthusiasm and spirit that characterizes every one of our volunteers.

Thank you, gentlemen, for a job well done. And thank you to all of the Person-to-Person volunteers.

**Another Successful 'Postal Food Drive'
Thanks to the Generosity of Palmer's Market,
the Efforts of the Darien Letter Carriers and
the Spirit of Giving in Our Community.**

For 18 years, Person-to-Person has been the designated recipient of grocery donations collected in Darien during the National Association of Letter Carriers' Annual Food Drive.

As in past years, Palmer's Market, a long-time supporter of Person-to-Person, donated more than 7,000 brown grocery bags to be delivered to all Darien residents along with a list of non-perishable groceries for P2P clients.



On the morning of May 8th, the Darien Letter Carriers picked up more than 29,000

pounds of donated groceries that had been left by the side of mailboxes throughout town.

Our volunteers and staff unloaded the postal trucks, then sorted the food and moved it into the Emergency Food Pantry where it will be used to fulfill orders through the summer months.

For more information about Person-to-Person or to make a donation, visit our website at www.p2pdarien.org

***More than 90% of all donations go directly to client programs and services
Person-to-Person, Inc. is a non-profit charitable agency with a 501(c)(3) tax status***

Visit us online at www.p2pdarien.org
We are grateful to St. Luke's Parish in Darien
for its longstanding commitment and support

Person-to-Person
1864 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820



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