



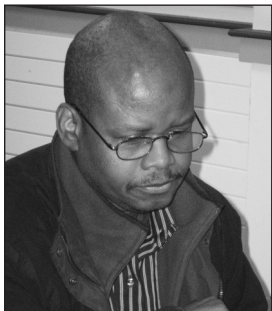
Person-to-Person

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Our Efforts to Address Poverty and Need Extend Beyond the Basics of Food, Clothing and Shelter.

Living below the poverty level is a year-round struggle for our clients. 22,000 individuals came to us for assistance last year – and 25% were people who had never needed our help before.

We provided clothing to 4,300 families; groceries to 11,000 individuals; emergency financial assistance to 894 families.



We awarded scholarships totaling \$354,000 to 161 college students.

Through one of our signature initiatives, the *Campership Program*, we sent 600 children, from low-income families, to area day camps.

Each summer, the working poor are faced with the challenge of keeping their children safe when schools are closed. With incomes that barely cover expenses for food, clothing and shelter, the options available to these families are severely limited – forcing parents to make hard choices for the care of their children during the summer months.

Working with social workers in the Stamford public elementary schools, we identify those families – from among the more than 4,000 children who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch during the school year – with the greatest need for a summer day camp program.



At an average cost of just \$85 a week per child, we are able to address the need by sending these children to day camps in Stamford and the surrounding communities.

The stories are varied, and compelling. The widower who not only suffered a loss when his wife died, but also suffered a loss of income and had no one to care for his children when school closed for the summer. The elderly woman raising her grandson alone who wanted to be sure that the boy had somewhere safe to go and something fun to do during the school vacation. The single mother whose daughter needed academic help so she wouldn't fall behind during the summer months. The hard working parents who worry about their children while they are at work.



The benefits for the children are many, whether camp offers an oasis of calm and stability, or provides academic support, it gives them the chance to learn and thrive in an environment that is rich with stimulating activities.

For their parents, the *Campership Program* is a lifeline; offering the peace of mind that their children are cared for and safe while they are working.

The cost of sending one child to camp for a full summer is \$620. Our ability to fund this important program is due in large part to the generous contributions from individuals in our community who want to help keep children from low-income families safe during the summer.

We hope you will take a moment today and send your donation to the *Campership Program* in the envelope provided.

Every dollar you donate goes directly to camp fees – giving children the opportunity to experience summer as we remember it.



Two New Initiatives for the Benefit of Our Clients . . .



Summer Food Program

There are more than 2,000 families in the Stamford Public elementary Schools who qualify for the free lunch program during the school year.

Because this program is not available during the summer months, many parents are forced to stretch already overburdened budgets in an effort to feed their children each day.

This summer, in recognition of a greater need for food security, P2P is providing the elementary school families, who qualify for the free lunch program, with groceries from the Emergency Food Pantry.

Families will be able to select seven days of food twice during the summer, which will provide groceries for two weeks of meals, three times a day.



Earn Benefits Online (EBO)

Through the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) – which has implemented the EBO web-based utility that helps connect low-income workers to a range of income-enhancing public and private benefits – P2P is now able to provide this service to its clients.

Using EBO, P2P volunteers help clients gain access to 10 benefits simultaneously – including HUSKY; State Administered General Assistance; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Women, Infants and Children; and Medicaid. The web-based application allows caseworkers to complete all necessary forms online, expediting the application process and getting faster help for clients.

The EBO utility has been funded in part by a grant to CAHS by the Fairfield County Community Foundation.

Reaching Out, With Helping Hands

Person-to-Person has received grants from the Fairfield County Community Foundation and New Canaan Community Foundation to fund a new initiative that increases our reach to families and individuals 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 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 – determine how best to meet the client's immediate emergency financial needs and schedule 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.

Through the *Outreach and Innovation Program*, P2P will be able to reach – and help – more people; providing them with the basic necessities and resources to improve their lives.



How Do We Deliver Services to Thousands of People Each Year? With the Help of More Than Two Thousand Volunteers!

Each year more than 2,000 people volunteer at P2P: the middle-schoolers in *Kid-to-Kid* who stage fundraising drives and the *Youth Group* high school students who run the agency on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings; the *Clothing Center* and *Emergency Food Pantry* volunteers who sort and stock donations and help our clients select food and clothes.

Volunteers staff the *Reception Area* and coordinate our special programs (*Be-A-Santa*, *Dove Program*, *Postal Food Drive*, *Toy Store*). They register children in the *Campership Program*. Volunteers review applications from and select college students to receive financial awards from our *Scholarship Program*. Volunteers serve on committees and as members of the P2P *Board of Directors*. Volunteer *Van Men* pick-up food and clothing donations.

In total, our volunteers contribute approximately 60,000 hours of their time each year, thereby offering a path to self-sufficiency for those who are less fortunate. And all volunteer, without a care for recognition or favor, because the act of helping others is reward enough.

And, by recognizing the accomplishments of a few, we recognize the accomplishments of all our volunteers.



P2P Board of Directors:

This year, the board voted to include two ex officio members from the agency's Youth Group. Selected to serve

on the board in this capacity are Youth Group leaders and Darien High School students, **Sarah Smith** and **Justin Lee**.

The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County:

At the 15th Annual Stamford Volunteer Day, long-time volunteers **Polly and Harry Geller** (current and past board members, respectively) were recognized with the 'Spirit of Volunteerism' Award. Volunteer **Jed Johnson** was also recognized for his contributions to P2P and the larger community. And honorable mentions went to Lisa Carena and to the Giannos Family.



"Hats Off" Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: At a themed event in recognition of the P2P volunteers who wear many different hats, we applauded all who help us provide our clients with the programs and services that make a significant difference in their lives. We also took a moment to highlight the contributions of those we consider to be first among equals.

Anne Procter is one of the original P2P volunteers who returned to help out after her retirement. **Kim Dickinson** recently joined the Volunteer Council and has assumed responsibility for the Dove Program. **Julie Forsyth** joined our volunteer community last summer and, with her retail background and management training, has helped to transform the Clothing Center into an operation that is efficiently run and well-organized. **Paul Likins**, volunteer in the Emergency Food Pantry, can be counted on to replenish stock with much-needed items and contributed more than \$1,600 in coffee, tea, crackers, etc. last year.



And to **Wilder Gleason** we extended our most heartfelt gratitude for all of his efforts during our year-long renovation – reviewing contracts, suggesting changes, checking the punch list and making numerous trips to P&Z on our behalf – which not only ensured that the project was completed on time and on budget, but has also resulted in an improved working environment for our staff and volunteers and more welcoming surroundings for our clients.

New Canaan Volunteer Recognition Day: P2P volunteers Jan Traynor and her daughter, Emily Scerbo, were recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer Family at the 14th Annual New Canaan Volunteer Day. Tina Kramer was recognized as Outstanding Individual Adult Volunteer. **Maureen Hughes** and **Topsy Post** received Honorable Mentions as Outstanding Individual Senior and Outstanding Individual Adult, respectively.

Congratulations to you all. We couldn't do it without you!

The Helping Hands Legacy Society: An Exceptional Opportunity to Advance the Person-to-Person Mission through Planned Giving



Planned giving is a simple way to combine philanthropy and financial planning. With a planned gift, you may be able to give more than you thought possible; providing favorable financial or tax benefits for you and your family . . . establishing a lasting legacy in your name . . . helping Person-to-Person meet the needs of those who lack the resources to improve their lives.

There are many ways to plan for the future – yours and those who need our help. You may make a bequest to Person-to-Person through your will; you may include the agency as a beneficiary of your retirement assets or insurance policy; or you may name Person-to-Person in a charitable lead or remainder trust. We hope you will explore the options and opportunities that are right for you with your advisors.

Once you have established this lasting legacy, you will join with others as a member of the *Helping Hands Legacy Society* – our way of acknowledging your remarkable commitment to the advancement of our mission . . . during your lifetime and beyond.

For more information about the *Helping Hands Legacy Society*, contact our Director of Development, Diane Reese Tucker (dtucker@p2pdarien.org | 203 656-4631 x158).



Visit us online at www.p2pdarien.org
We are grateful to St. Luke's Parish in Darien
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