



# Person-to-Person

## COVID 19 Response: Meeting Critical Needs

Spring & Summer 2020



@p2pHelps



@persontopersonCT



@p2pHelps

# Person-to-Person

Since 1968:

With a vision of educated, financially stable and hunger-free homes for all.

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Person-to-Person (P2P) is a community-supported non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance for basic needs and support for individuals and families as they move towards stability.

**Community:**  
We honor the contributions of all.

**Volunteers:**  
Service is the heart of the organization.

**Integrity:**  
We are honest, fair, responsible, and ethical.

**Respect:**  
We treat everyone who walks through the doors with dignity.

**Quality:**  
We are committed to what we do, and we do it well.





# The *Pre-Pandemic* Need

The high cost of living in the Norwalk-Stamford metropolitan area makes it difficult for many people to afford basic needs.

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The cost of living in Stamford/Norwalk is \$62,151 (MIT Living Wage Calculator), yet on a recent client survey 80% of P2P clients reported annual income of \$28,529 or less

20% percent more expensive in the Stamford/Norwalk metropolitan area than the national average

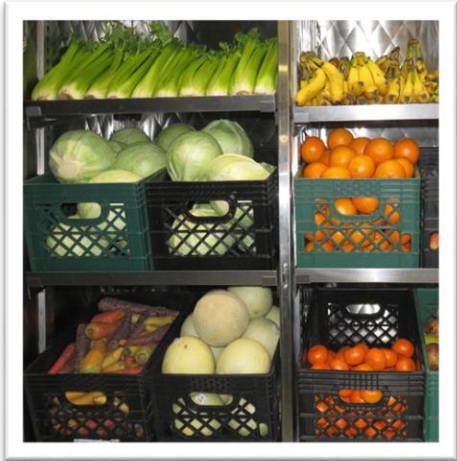
With more than half the school-aged population eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, the need is deep and real.

For families earning a minimum wage, two wage earners each need two full-time jobs to earn enough to support their family

40% of Americans are only one paycheck away from poverty

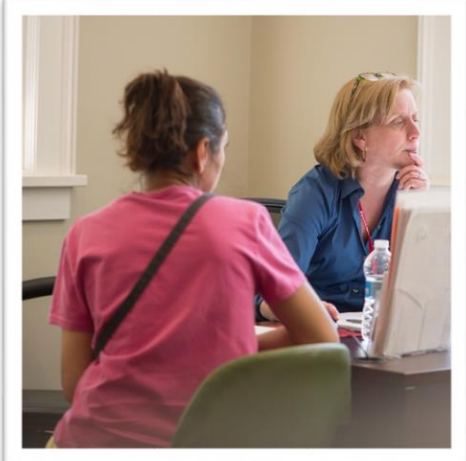


# P2P's Programs and Services



Access to Healthy Food

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Emergency Financial Assistance

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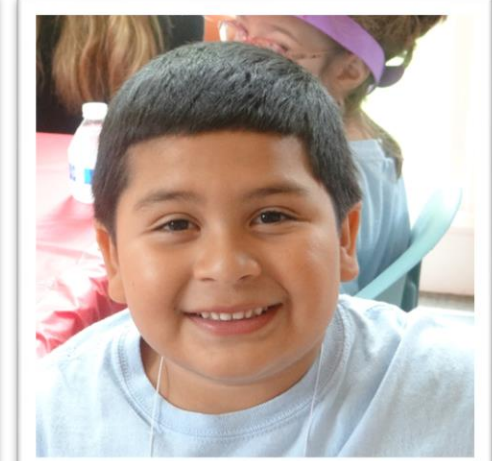
Clothing, Diapers, Car Seats and Layettes

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Scholarship & Mentorship

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Campership

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# Food & Clothing

## Innovative Solutions to Fighting Poverty

## Promoting Health and Nutrition

With volunteer support in three food pantries and a Clothing Center, P2P improves financial stability, reduces stress, enhances school performance and helps prevent chronic disease.

- Feeding 3,000 households per month
- 700,000 meals since January (1.2M meals in 2019)







# Financial Assistance

## The Heart of P2P's Mission

### All About Stability

P2P provides a safety net to help families survive and thrive.

- Support and referrals
- Budgeting assistance
- Financial Assistance



## Working Parents Need Help

### All About Creating Stable Communities

For families struggling to afford the basics, summer camp is cost prohibitive.

- 400 School-aged children
- 20 summer day camps

Campership





## Scholarship & Mentorship

## P2P Scholars

### All About Changing the Trajectory

Many students in P2P's program are the first in their family to attend college.

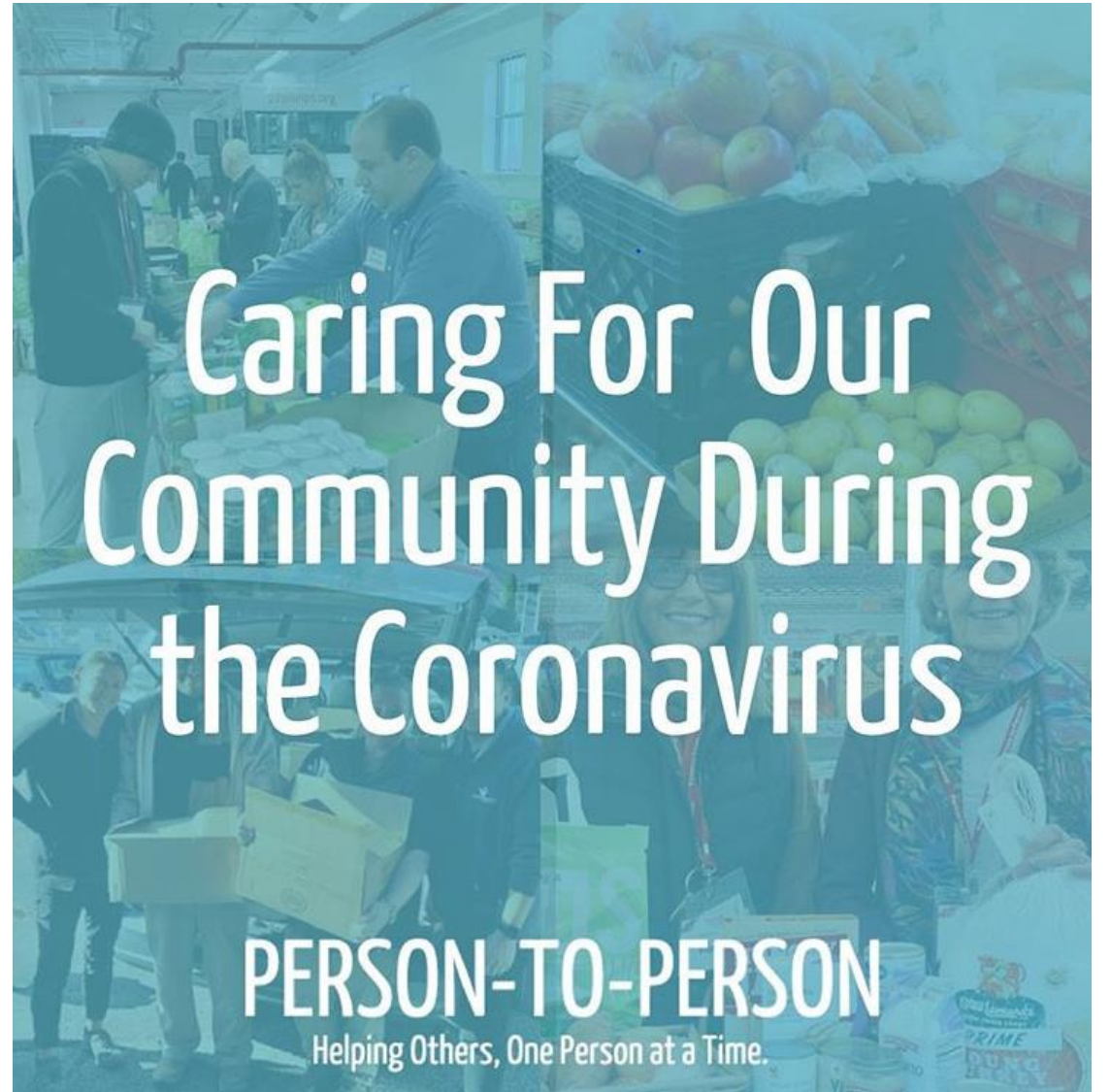
- Mentor 4 Success includes adult mentorships with 4 year scholarships
- Traditional Scholarships
- Vocational Scholarships
- Several Named Scholarships







**PERSON-TO-PERSON**



**Caring For Our  
Community During  
the Coronavirus**

**PERSON-TO-PERSON**

Helping Others, One Person at a Time.

# Safely Meeting Community Needs

## COVID 19: Meeting Critical Needs

P2P faced dramatic increases in need overnight due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Record unemployment, including 10,000 claims filed in one day alone, and topping the height of the Great Recession, overwhelmed systems leading to long delays in processing times and many left with no income
- Fairfield County “hotspot” of infections meant many were unable to work or leave their homes to seek assistance
- Half of Connecticut’s undocumented immigrants reside in Fairfield County and are ineligible for State and Federal stimulus payments, SNAP or other forms of assistance, leaving them vulnerable and in need of food assistance





# The Uneven Effects of the Pandemic

## COVID 19: Meeting Critical Needs

Not all are suffering equally:

- African Americans have worse health outcomes from COVID-19, primarily due to SDOH and employment status
  - 2.5X more likely to die
- Some incomes have increased. Stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 per person helped. The \$600 extra unemployment payments are set to expire at the end of July
- The number of people reporting they “sometimes” or “often” do not have enough to eat has increased 2% nationally to include 4M people, but **20%** of African American people now report being food insecure
- Moratoriums on evictions have been extended until late August
- Remote learning has impacted low-income children to a greater extent; 1 in 25 students participated in no school at all during the pandemic



# Rising to the Challenge

## COVID 19: Operational Response to the Crisis

- P2P is designated an “essential” workplace, operating its food pantry and emergency financial assistance programs throughout the crisis
- Over 90% of volunteers forced to stay home due to age, health, vulnerability to the virus or the need to care for others, including children
- Client interactions moved to “contactless” – substituting phone calls for in-person meetings, curbside pick-up for self-select food distribution and creative solutions to reaching vulnerable populations
- National disruptions to food supply chains and the loss of food drive donations forced food pantries including P2P to scramble to purchase food at significant cost





### Person-to-Person 2019 Snapshot



**Total Clients**  
24,873  
Unique Indv.  
8,106  
Unique HH



**Food**  
1,220,499  
Meals  
12,815  
Unique Indv.  
4,370  
Unique HH



**EA**  
1,424  
Grants  
2,732  
Unique Indv.  
1,111  
Unique HH  
\$257  
Avg. Amount



**Clothing**  
53,247  
Bags  
3,732  
Unique HH  
12,629  
Unique Indv.

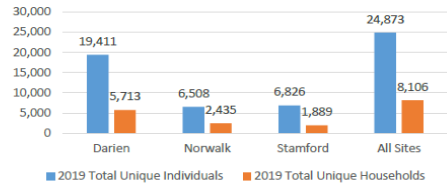


**Campership**  
401  
Unique Campers  
295  
Unique HH

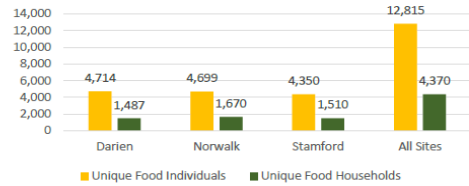


**Scholarship**  
104  
Unique Scholars  
102  
Unique HH

Total Clients Served by Site

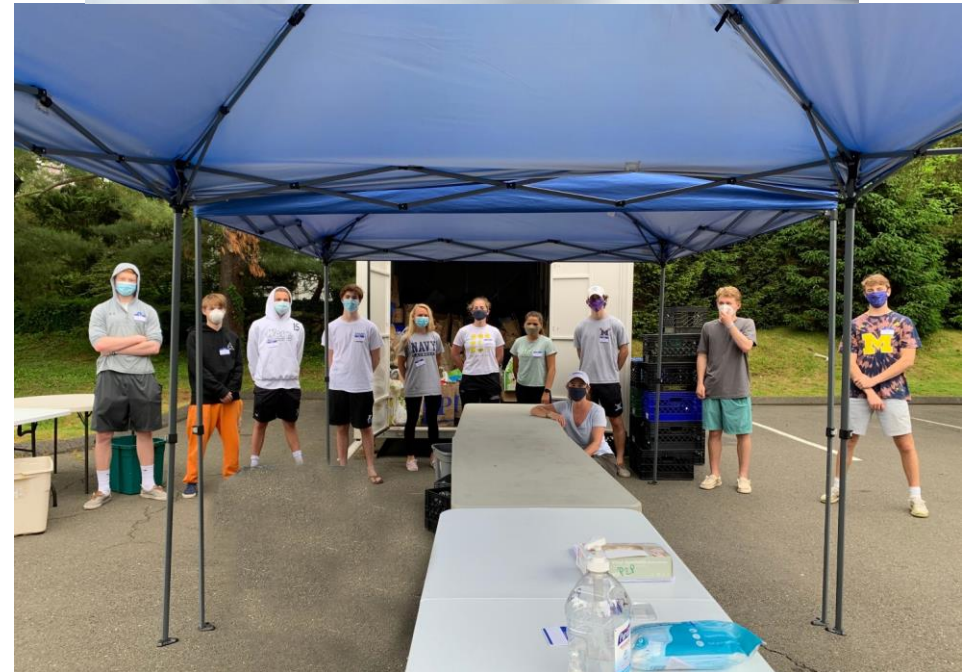


Food Clients Served by Site



### 7/1/19 - 6/30/2020 Total Clients Served

Location	# Unique Individuals	# Unique Families
Darien	20,992	6,324
Norwalk	8,263	3,077
Stamford	7,019	2,479
All Sites*	29,018	9,576





# Successfully Meeting Record Demand

COVID 19: Meeting Dramatic Increases in Critical Needs

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- In May 2020, P2P provided 60% more food than before the pandemic and 90% more food than the prior year
- In May 2020, P2P provided 380% more emergency financial assistance for rent than the prior year
- In 2020 – 2021, P2P expects to provide almost \$1M in emergency financial assistance
- One third of those seeking assistance had never been to P2P before
- Feeding almost 9,000 individuals per month





# Door2Door

## COVID 19: Home Delivery Service Launched

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- P2P launched a new program, Door2Door, to provide home delivery of food to those affected by COVID-19
- Over 3,500 individuals received home delivery of food at no cost to them
- Volunteer drivers make deliveries to residents in need in the 7 towns served by P2P (Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton)

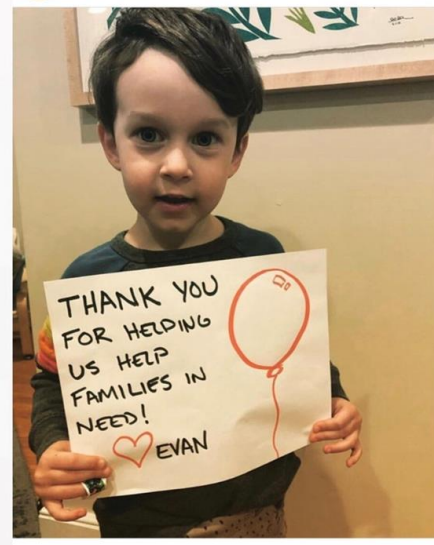




# Community Support

## COVID 19: Innovation in the Face of Increased Needs

- Online “virtual” food drive generated over 400 gifts and raised over \$150,00 for the purchase of food
- Drive-thru contactless food drives made up for the loss of traditional drives, generating over 10,000 pounds of food
- Community volunteers donated hundreds of face masks for volunteers, staff and clients
- Opus for Person-to-Person matching grant raised \$200,000 for Balloons for Families campaign





# Volunteering at P2P



Weekly Volunteers

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Corporate Groups

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Community Groups  
and Schools

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[Operating During the Health Crisis](#)

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- Baby Basics
- Campership Committee
- Clothing Center Volunteers
- Community Garden Center
- Postal Food Drives
- Costco Pickup
- Database Helpers
- Dove Chair
- Food Bank Shopping Team
- Food Pantry Volunteers
- Goods for Good
- High Holy Days Food Drive
- Kid-to-Kid
- OPUS for Person-to-Person
- P2P Social
- Panera Pickup
- Pepperidge Farm Bread Pickup
- Reception Volunteers
- Scholarship Committee
- Stamford Expansion Truck Committee
- Toy Store Committee
- Transforming Lives Gala Committee
- Van Volunteers
- Volunteer Office Support
- Youth Group
- Youth Group Adult Advisor

# In their words...

“ I want to thank Person-to-Person for allowing me to accomplish my dream of a college education. Without your support, it wouldn't have been possible. I am the first in my family to graduate college and for that, I will forever be thankful. If there is anything I can do to help the program in the future, or to assist future students like me, please let me know.

-Kerry, P2P Scholar

“ Although this is a very hard time for my family and myself all the support I am receiving from P2P has made things much easier. I am sure my life will be on track very soon and I can assure you I will be on the other end landing a hand.

-Hamilton, P2P On Wheels Client

“ I wanted to reach out personally to say thank you on behalf of my mother, a retired teacher, who receives clothing and food assistance. She wasn't expecting to be in need at this age, but she is treated with such dignity each time she goes to P2P that it has been a great experience for her.

-Jessica





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# THANK YOU!

[p2pHelps.org](https://p2pHelps.org)

