



Person-to-Person

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Person-to-Person Registers 500 Schoolchildren for Summer Camp.



Two of the 500 children from low-income families who will attend summer camp through the Person-to-Person Campership Program.

Darien CT, May 3, 2010 – It is Saturday. Parents are waiting in line at the Saint Luke’s Parish Hall in Darien to register their sons and daughters at one of 15 area day camps. One mother has gotten there at 3:30 in the morning to ensure that her children will be in a safe and nurturing environment during summer vacation. By 4:30 am there are a number of families awaiting the arrival of Person-to-Person staff and volunteers for the annual Campership Program registration. By 9:30 am more than 198 elementary and middle schoolers have been registered for summer camp.

For more than 40 years, the Person-to-Person Campership Program has funded camp each summer for hundreds of Stamford schoolchildren who qualify for the free or reduced-price school lunch program. “This program is incredibly important to low-income, working families,” says Person-to-Person board member Beryl Williams, who serves as the program chair. “Struggling to make ends meet, these families have very limited childcare options once the school year is over. Having their children in day camp for six to eight weeks gives them peace of mind.”

The School and Family Resource Facilitator for the Stamford Public Schools, Williams also notes the benefits for the children. “We have relationships with camps that have an academic curriculum, offer extended day programs, provide breakfast, lunch and snacks, or work with children who have special needs,” she says, “so the children not only have the opportunity to enjoy their summer, but are also provided with a rich and stimulating experience that supports their social and educational development.”



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Williams looks forward to this day each year. “There are returning families, but I also meet new people. And they all truly appreciate the program.” Turning toward a mother approaching the table, Williams gestures for the woman to have a seat. She notices the woman’s daughters and then points to the coloring books and crayons off to one side. The mother nods, the girls smile; in a moment, the children are drawing. Williams and the woman then begin the camp registration process.

On this Saturday, 500 schoolchildren are registered to attend a full summer of camp. The average cost per child is \$600 and paid for by the Person-to-Person Campership Program, which is funded entirely through donations made by individuals, community organizations and local foundations.

For more information about the Campership Program or to make a donation, call (203) 655-0048.

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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