

PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION

20th Anniversary Edition

How We Got Started

The question always comes up: **How did People for People get its start back in 2003?**

Well, People for People started out as a Rotary Club project that was only going to run for one year. Bernadette Blackstock was the president of the Mullica Hill Rotary Club back then and she wanted to start a program that would have an impact on the local community. After much research and discussion People for People was formed. Its mission was to provide small monetary grants and advocacy to families in Gloucester County that were normally self sufficient that were experiencing a family crisis due to no fault of their own. These were families that would be classified as the "Working Poor." Their incomes which in most cases were low, but unfortunately just above the limits where they could not readily qualify to receive government assistance. Too much to receive traditional assistance, but not enough to eradicate their needs. You can say they "Fell through the cracks" and had very few options available to them.

The initial goal was to try to help one family per month for the one year and then stop. Because of the overwhelming response received from people seeking assistance the first month when PFP received over 100 calls, it was decided to form a separate 501 c 3 foundation and continue the program into the future.

Bernadette and her husband Paul ran PFP from their home as volunteers for over six years raising funds for PFP and providing help and advocacy to help those in need. During this time the Blackstocks also ran their own life

and health insurance agency but eventually realized that they couldn't continue to do both. So, in 2009 they decided to slowly divest themselves from their insurance business and devote their full time to PFP. Bernadette became an employee of PFP and today serves as the President and CEO. Paul continued his work for PFP as a volunteer.

What started as a small Rotary project has turned into an organization that has had a great impact for those seeking help. Instead of helping 12 families as was its goal initially, today People for People has helped over 12,000 people and adds to that number every day with assistance with food, clothing, utilities, medications, and many other items to help people in need. Just in 2014 alone People for People fielded over 2000 requests for help. Working out of a local warehouse People for People has six part time employees and numerous volunteers. PFP is the only organization in Gloucester County that is authorized to administer the Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) program and is also authorized to administer New Jersey Shares assistance. People for People also serves as the Lead Agency for the Pascale Sykes Foundation initiative Heart of Gloucester County which was made up of five other organizations with the mission of strengthening families.

People for People is also dedicated to helping our veteran community. They are the driving force behind the annual regional Vets Picnic as well as the Wreaths of Remembrance which has laid 36,000 wreaths over the past 14 years on the graves of our veterans at

the Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery. People for People developed a low to moderate income housing community with a veteran preference called Camp Salute. More information on this project will be in our next newsletter.

From a small club project run by volunteers to a wide reaching organization helping thousands of people over the years with their emergent and other needs, People for People has come a long way and is continuing to grow.



Story Headlines

- ◆ How we got started
- ◆ People for People—**PAST**
- ◆ People for People—**PRESENT**
- ◆ People for People—**FUTURE**






MISSION STATEMENT

To provide resource and referral assistance to residents of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties that have experienced financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances.



PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE—PAST

Over the years, People for People has had the opportunity to be involved in and assist with numerous ventures.

<p>COTT Community Outreach Think</p> 	<p>GCCOAD GC Community Organizations Active in Disaster Organizations created to lend a hand due to the effects of a disaster in Gloucester County</p> 	<p>Heart of South Jersey</p> 
<p>Utility Programs TRUE Temporary Relief for Utility Expenses</p> <p>ACE Helping Hands Help for those struggling to pay their ACE bill</p> 	<p>UA Food Drive Collect & delivered food to UW</p> 	

Giving a hand to help individuals and families in need as well as partnering with organizations to foster a positive impact on the community.

EVENTS

- ◆ Coach Bingo
- ◆ Coat Drive (HFM Advisors LLC)
- ◆ Dancing with the GC Stars
- ◆ Partnered w/Breakfast with Santa
- ◆ Pizza & Presents w/Santa
- ◆ School supply give-a-way
- ◆ Stage Door Canteen
- ◆ Totally Talent in GC Talent Show
- ◆ Touch-A-Truck
- ◆ And more...



PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE—PRESENT



People for People Team

L to R: C Lopez, R Edwards, CJ Lopez, M Betz, B Blackstock, J Adams, J Dougherty, A Desper

Veterans Picnic: Annual Veterans Day Picnic to be held at the Gloucester County 4H Fair September 7, 2024. More information to follow.

Casino Night: Friday, November 15, 2024. *People for People* partners with the Glassboro Rotary to support the Paul M Blackstock Scholarship program.

Holiday Giving: People for People providing holiday dinners. Date & Time TBD.

Wreaths of Remembrance: Saturday, December 7, 2024. Hundreds of volunteers arrived at the Gloucester County Veterans Cemetery to lay wreaths on our Veterans gravesites.

Veteran Family Holiday Brunch. Date & Time TBD.

Lifeskills Classes. Various times during the year.

People for People Foundation

Our team consist of both staff and volunteers.

Each member contributes to the organization in his or her own way through their knowledge, experience, caring, hard work and openness to the needs of the many clients encountered.

People for People has endeavored to find so many original and effective ways to make real and lasting improvements in people's lives.

Some of the ways *People for People* improve the lives of our clients is through the utility grants that we process, seasonal craft events offered to the residents at the various Conifer sites, and partnering with other organizations for holiday celebrations.

Furthermore, our Veteran Claims Agent and our volunteer Veteran go all-out to provide quality service for the numerous veterans they encounter; whether that's providing resource information, beginning or updating a claim, or just offering a sympathetic ear for those in need.

Veteran events include the annual Veterans Picnic, and our yearly Wreaths of Remembrance observance.

Overall, *People for People* is a grassroots foundation that continues to lend a helping hand to the South Jersey community.

PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE—FUTURE



Partnering with CONIFER REALTY, LLC

COMING SOON...

Upcoming Affordable Housing and Supportive Services

Cove at Palmyra—Palmyra

Family development located in Palmyra, NJ. Family development with 8 set-aside units for veterans at risk of homelessness. Completion scheduled for 2025.

Liberty Landing – East Greenwich

Liberty Landing located in East Greenwich, NJ. Family development with 70 total units of 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms with 35 Veteran Preference Units. 5 units designated for veterans at risk of being homeless. Completion scheduled for 2025.

Swedesboro, NJ

Family development with 5 set-aside units for veterans at risk of being homeless. Completion scheduled for 2025.

Valor Point—Middlesex County

Family development with Veteran Preference currently under construction in Middlesex County, NJ. 80 units of 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms with 37 units designated for Veterans. Completion scheduled by end of 2024.

Woodland View

Family development located in Camden County, NJ. 13 units will be set-aside for veterans at risk of being homeless. Completion scheduled for 2025.



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt.

PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION

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Be a helping hand. Click below.



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