# PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION FEBRUARY 2025

#### **OVERVIEW**

**2025** is slated to be a banner year.

Since 2003 when *People for People Foundation* (a 501c3 grassroots organization) started, our organization (along with partner agencies) has assisted hundreds of individuals and families from administering utility assistance to providing valuable resource and referral services.

One of the organizations *People for People* partners with is *New Jersey Shares*. NJ Shares, provides energy assistance to moderate and lower-income households experiencing a financial crisis. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

**People for People** assist the **New Jersey Shares** programs with the processing and submitting of applications from **eligible** clients seeking help. To date, **People for People** has processed more than 392 applicants needing utility assistance with funds granted to clients over \$177,000.

Other assistance *People for People* provides is though our *Veteran Claims Agent*, who goes all-out to provide quality service for the numerous veterans she encounters; whether that's providing resource information, beginning or updating a claim, or just offering a sympathetic ear for those in need.

For veterans seeking information or resources regarding benefits, the <u>2025 Veterans Benefits Guide</u> is now available. Just click on the following link (or copy it into your brower) at <a href="https://news.va.gov/137659/spread-the-word-the-2025-veterans-benefits-guide-is-now-available/">https://news.va.gov/137659/spread-the-word-the-2025-veterans-benefits-guide-is-now-available/</a>.

Moreover, *People for People* has a joint venture partnership with *Conifer Realty, Inc.* 

Conifer is a nationally ranked, full-service real estate company specializing in the development, construction, management, and ownership of high-quality, affordable housing communities. Since its inception in 1975, Conifer has grown considerably – currently owning and managing over 15,000 multifamily apartment homes representing 210 communities in New York, *New Jersey*, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

This joint venture with *People for People* now provides permanent housing for low to moderate income families with a *Veteran Preference*. In fact, it is the *first* partnership in the United States built to provide permanent housing to veterans, their families and the surviving spouses of veterans.

Currently, **People for People** and **Conifer Realty** partnership includes a number of current and upcoming affordable housing communities including (but not limited to):

- ♦ Camp Salute
- ♦ Cove At Palmyra
- ♦ Liberty Landing
- ♦ Swedesboro
- ♦ Valor Point (Now accepting applications)
- ♦ Woodland View
- ♦ More to come...

In the end and whatever the concern, *People for People* will endeavor to provide help for those in need.



# **Cover & Inside Stories**

- ♦ Mission Statement
- ♦ People for People Overview
- ♦ Valentine's Day
- ♦ President's Day
- ♦ Victory Garden & More...
- ♦ Cooking Corner Easy Chicken & Dumplings
- ♦ AARP Tax Aide Services
- **♦** Upcoming Events

Please help us continue our mission assisting the veterans and residents of South Jersey by making a donation to our 20th Anniversary Fund. Click the following link to give: <a href="https://givebutter.com/PFP20th">https://givebutter.com/PFP20th</a>

# **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**

# **VALENTINE'S DAY**

Valentine's Day, (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of <u>Lupercalia</u>, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope <u>Gelasius I</u> forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian <u>martyrs</u> named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was <u>martyred</u> about 270 CE by the emperor <u>Claudius II Gothicus</u>. According to <u>legend</u>, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of <u>Terni</u>, a <u>bishop</u>, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two <u>saints</u> were actually one person. Another common legend states that <u>St. Valentine</u> defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with <u>love</u>.

Formal messages, or <u>valentines</u>, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the <u>United States</u> were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict <u>Cupid</u>, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the <u>avian</u> mating season begins in mid-February, <u>birds</u> also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include <u>candy</u> and <u>flowers</u>, particularly red <u>roses</u>, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the <u>United States</u> as well as in <u>Britain</u>, <u>Canada</u>, and <u>Australia</u>, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including <u>Argentina</u>, <u>France</u>, <u>Mexico</u>, and <u>South Korea</u>. In the <u>Philippines</u> it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

Valentine's Day is on Friday, February 14.



#### PRESIDENT'S DAY

President's Day, also known as Washington's Birthday, is on the third Monday of February each year and is a federal holiday in the United States. The day not only honors **George Washington (born February 22)**, the first President of the United States, and Abraham Lincoln (born February 12) whose birthdays are both in February, but honors all the presidents who have served in the United States.

Although George Washington's birthday is observed on February 22, Washington was actually born on February 11, 1731!

Historically, Americans began celebrating George Washington's Birthday just months after his death, long before Congress declared it a federal holiday. It was not until 1879, under President Rutherford B. Hayes, that Washington's Birthday became a legal holiday.

Today, George Washington's Birthday is one of only 11 permanent federal holidays established by Congress observed each year. One of the great traditions followed for decades has been the reading of George Washington's Farewell Address by a U.S. senator in legislative session, which remains an annual event to this day.

**Abraham Lincoln**, born February 12, 1809, was the 16th president of the United States, serving from 1861 until his assassination in 1865. He led the United States through the American Civil War, defending the nation as a constitutional union, defeating the Confederacy, playing a major role in the abolition of slavery, expanding the power of the federal government, and modernizing the U.S. economy.

Lincoln is remembered as a martyr and a national hero for his wartime leadership and for his efforts to preserve the Union and abolish slavery. He is often ranked in both popular and scholarly polls as the greatest president in American history.

In 2019, Congress officially dedicated room H-226 in the United States Capitol to Abraham Lincoln. The room is located off National Statuary Hall and served as the post office of the House while then-Representative Abraham Lincoln served in Congress from 1847 to 1849.

President's Day is on Monday, February 17.











# & MORE...

The Victory Garden - a community garden serving the residents of Camp Salute in Clayton NJ

Start small around trees, the house, fences, and move outwards when embracing gardening naturally without herbicides and by planting native and edible food plants.

"If half of American lawns were replaced with native plants, we would create the equivelant of a 20 Million acre national park, nine times bigger than Yellowstone or 100 times bigger than Shenandoah national park"



# **Cooking Corner**



#### **Easy Chicken and Dumplings**

Turn last night's leftover chicken into tonight's scrumptious dinner

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 ½ cups fat-free (skim) milk
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots
- 1 cup cut-up cooked chicken
- 1 can (10  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz) condensed creamy chicken mushroom soup
- 1 cup Bisquick Heart Smart® mix
- 1/3 cup fat-free (skim) milk Paprika, if desired

#### **Directions**

- \* In 3-quart saucepan, heat 1½ cups milk, the frozen peas and carrots, chicken and soup to boiling.
- \* In small bowl, stir together Bisquick® mix and 1/3 cup milk until soft dough forms. Drop dough by 8 spoonfuls onto chicken mixture (do not drop directly into liquid). Sprinkle with paprika.
- \* Uncovered over low heat 10 minutes. Cover and cook 10 minutes longer.

Prep Time: 10 min Total Time: 30 min Servings: 4

# **AARP Tax Aide Services**

#### IT's TAX TIME!

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. *You don't need to be an AARP member to use the service.* 

Since 1968, Tax-Aide has helped over 80 million taxpayers receive all the credits and deductions they're entitled to. Our volunteers are IRS-certified every year, so they understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. You can choose to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your taxes or provide coaching so you can prepare them yourself. You can find them in *libraries, malls, banks and community centers* in all 50 states.

AARP locations provide tax services in multiple ways. Locations will range in services available. Understand which service is right for you and search for a location that can provide that service to you. You can prepare your return:

- ♦ In-Person
- ♦ One Visit Scan
- ♦ Two Visit Scan
- Drop-off
- ♦ No Site Visit

For more information, go to <a href="https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/">https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/</a>





# PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION

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 units set-aside 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—Gloucester County

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

# Valor Point—Middlesex County

**Applications are now open for Valor Pointe Apartments**, our newest community in Monroe Township, NJ. This modern development features 80 thoughtfully designed apartment homes, offering residents spacious and comfortable living spaces.

# Woodland View—Camden County

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

# **PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION - UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Veteran's Picnic**

Saturday, September 6, 2025 Time: 11:00am—3:00pm Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds Rt. 77, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

#### **Wreaths of Remembrance**

Saturday, December 6, 2025
Times: family private gathering—9am
veteran ceremony—10am
GC Veterans Memorial Cemetery
240 N Tuckahoe Rd., Williamstown, NJ 08094

#### **PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION**

100 Homer Street Suite B Clayton, NJ 08312

Phone: 856-579-7561 Fax: 856-579-7568 Be a helping hand. Click below.



