PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION

MAY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Bernadette Blackstock—CEO

Wow! How time flies. Seems like yesterday the idea at a roundtable meeting sprung to life. Helping one family a month for 12 months grown into helping thousands of individuals and their families. Here we are 20 years later and what a difference has been made for many people.

But what do we do? People ask all the time. I have the typical 30 second elevator speech: We help people who are normally self-sufficient when they experience a hard time by offering resources and referrals. Really! But, what does that mean?

It means, fielding 100 hundreds of phone calls, listening to the problem, and if possible, finding a solution. Easy, right! Let's break that down into a day at People for People.

The office opens at 9am (but one staff member starts at 7am, doing the paperwork needed to provide utility assistance to families). Phones begin to ring, three staff members field the calls. Most of the calls this year have been for utility and rental assistance. People for People is an affiliate of NJ Shares which offers grants for electric, gas and water

Since January we have assisted with the approval of 96 applications totaling over $42,000 grants. That is an average of $436 per household! But that's not all we do. Of the hundreds of calls answered we have connected over 50 people to agencies that can help with rental assistance.

That's just some of the office work. People for People provides supportive services to 6 affordable housing developments that are owned and operated by Conifer Realty. A staff member of People for People visits the sites each week providing referral and resources to the residents for a variety of needs. We offer workshops, health checks (in partnership with Gloucester County Health Services) crafts, bingo and much more.

People for People has partnered with Conifer Realty to build, manage and support Affordable Housing Development with Veteran Preference. Our flagship development is Camp Salute located in Clayton, NJ. The development is a 76 unit family apartment complex that currently houses 50 Veterans or spouses of deceased veterans

A new development, Valor Pointe, located in Monroe Township, Middlesex County, will open at the end of 2024. This is an 80 unit complex and will start taking applications in the early fall. On the drawboard is a 70-unit complex, Liberty Landing located in East Greenwich will start construction this fall. Several other developments have been slated for next year and People for People will provide supportive services to special units filled with homeless or at risk of homelessness Veterans.

The highlight at the Camp Salute Complex is the community Victory Garden. Managed by our dear friends Rich and Lori Gess. (Read more and see pictures in this newsletter.
Speaking of Veterans, I am an Accredited Claims Agent and I assist Veterans in applying for Compensation and Pension Benefits from the VA for service-connected disabilities. So far this year we have over 25 Veterans in various stages of their claims.

Won't you help us continue our mission helping the Veterans and residents of South Jersey by making a donating to our 20th Anniversary Fund by clicking the Donate button on this page.

Click or following link: https://givebutter.com/PFP20th

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.

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MOTHER'S DAY

The origin of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States arose in the early 1900's through the efforts of Anna Jarvis, an American social activist out of Philadelphia, who strongly felt there should be a national holiday to honor the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially declared ***"Mother's Day"*** as a national holiday to fall on the second Sunday in May every year--with this year, 110 years strong, falling on May 14th.

This Mother's Day, please take the time to acknowledge and honor the celebration and sacrifices of motherhood.

Inside Stories

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VETERAN PROFILE

Rebecca J. Edwards

Rebecca is one of our newest and inexhaustible volunteers. Whether helping a client, staff member, friend, or family, Rebecca is always ready, willing and able to assist.

Born and raised as an "Army Brat" in an active-duty military family and after having lived in 13 different locations spanning three continents by the age of 17, Rebecca was inspired to join the service in 2003 out of Phoenix, Arizona to serve our country and establish herself that would make those she loved proud of her.

During her service overseas, Rebecca experienced a major hip injury from a training mission, resulting in a significant decline in her ability to meet the needs of her duties.

After honorably discharged, Rebecca experienced a number of personal challenges which, over time, enabled her to focused on what she wanted in life; being a good mother and student.

Rebecca adamantly worked to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, with her mother's words ringing in

her head, "NO ONE can EVER take your education away from you!

In 2012, Rebecca proudly earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She was "finally" able to professionally express her passion for helping others and procuring a suitable life for her and her 3 children.

Rebecca started working with the Homeless Veteran population and assisted them with securing permanent housing following various life circumstances. Needless to say, working with homeless veterans and experiencing countless acts of pure kindness and humility from those equally at their lowest point in life put her own struggles into perspective.

Through a series of relocations, Rebecca came to know Bernadette Blackstock and eventually, decided to come on board with the People for People team.

People for People is very proud of Rebecca and all the work she does for our veteran community .

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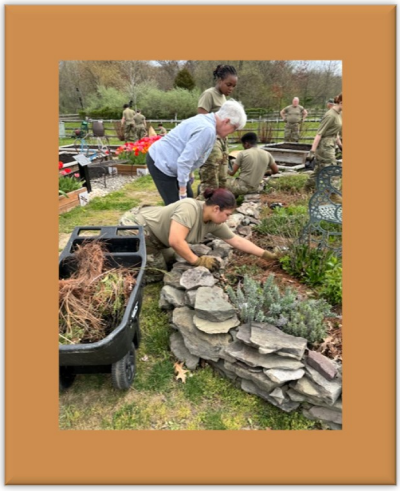
VICTORY GARDEN & MORE...

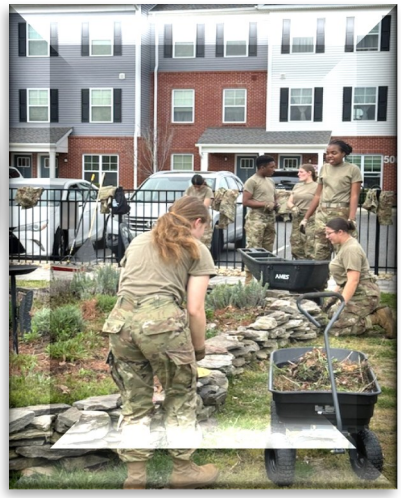
DELSEA JR. ROTC THANK YOU!

A big shout out and thank you to the Delsea Jr. ROTC for the construction of a pollinator garden in the Victory Garden at Camp Salute.

A pollinator garden is designed to contain plants to provide food and shelter to animals (Bees, birds, butterflies, small animals, etc.) that pollinate plants and support the local ecosystem and food web.

Thank you again for a great contribution to our garden and our environment!





VICTORY GARDEN
Planting Season—May 2024

It's time for planting season at the ***Victory Garden***.

All interested planters and/or volunteers are welcome to assist every Thursday.

Financial Planning Counseling Sessions

Jason Gabrieli, a Certified Financial Planner from HFM Investment Advisors is offering free financial planning counseling sessions. The sessions are confidential and cover topics like budgeting, debt paydown strategies, saving strategies, etc.

To make an appointment with Jason you may contact him at the following:

HFM Investment Advisors, LLC
102 West High Street, Suite 200
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Phone: (856) 232-2270
Web: www.hfmadvisors.com

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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.

May

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Be a helping hand. Click below.

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