# PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION MARCH 2025

# **UPDATES**

# **NI Shares Rebranding**

One of the organizations *People for People* partners with has been rebranded. As of today, *New Jersey Shares* will simply be known as **SHARES**.

Founded over 27 years ago, **SHARES'** mission was to provide help to New Jersey residents who were not eligible for assistance with their utilities because they were a dollar over the income limits for LIHEAP/USF. Over time, **SHARES** has expanded their programs to include services for both low and moderate-income households, offering assistance beyond utilities. As they continue to grow, this rebrand is a necessary step for their organization. While New Jersey will always be at the core of **SHARES'** history, they are thrilled to continue to expand offerings beyond New Jersey's state borders.

**SHARES** will continue to provide energy assistance through the *New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities Payment Assistance for Gas & Electric Program (NJ BPU PAGE), Shares SMART Utility Assistance Program,* and *Shares Energy Assistance Grant.* 

For those whose income qualifies you for the Low-Income Home energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Universal Service Fund (USF) program, remember the application period (based on a *first come first service* basis) is from October 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

**Please Note:** The 2025 LIHEAP application is also an application for the Universal Service Fund Program (USF).

To apply go to <u>www.energyassistance.nj.gov</u> or contact an authorized local community action agency, community-based organization or outreach agency in your county for assistance.

# **Veteran Claims Agent**

Our *People for People Veteran Claims Agent*, continues 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>.

# **Venture Partnership**

**People for People's** joint venture with **Conifer Realty, Inc.** provides permanent housing for low to moderate income families with a **Veteran Preference**; the **first** partnership in the United States built to provide permanent housing to veterans, their families and the surviving spouses of veterans.

**People for People's** and **Conifer Realty, Inc.** ventures continues to expand. See current list of ventures on the last page of the newsletter.



# Cover & Inside Stories

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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**

# **FLYERS WARRIORS**

One of the many individuals that our Veteran Claims Agent assist are the veterans associated with the Flyers Warriors Program.

"The Flyers Warriors program is the model organization in providing direct services and interaction opportunities for Veterans."

Participants of the USA Hockey-affiliated Warrior hockey program are Veterans with a minimum of a 10 percent VA-rated disability. The Philadelphia Warriors Hockey Program continues to grow to be a positive and life-altering experience for its players and family members.

#### **TIERS**

The Flyers Warriors compete on a number of different levels.

*Tier 1* is our highest level of skill in the Flyers Warriors organization. Tier 1 has a wide variety of experiences to include some players with Collegiate Level, and AAA Youth Hockey. The divisional skill level that best equates to this team ranges from B2 – B1.

*Tier 2* is our second highest Tier level within the Flyers Warriors Program. It is a combination of players who have been playing and been around the game for a really long time. The divisional skill level that best fits this team would be C1 – Low B2

*Tier 3* is a blend of both our T2 and T4 programs. It is a combination of players who have played for a long time and players from the T4 that have improved and out grown the skill level of T4. The divisional skill level that best fits this team would be C3 – C2.

**TIER 4** is our lowest tier in the flyers Warriors Program. This team is designed for the players who have never played the sport before. On this team, you will learn the rules of the game, while taking your first few strides in gear on the Ice. The divisional level that best fits this team would be D1.

## **Becoming a Warrior**

Becoming a Warrior is a unique privilege for our fellow Veterans to be part of something special after serving our great nation. This program provides services not only on the ice but off the ice as well for players and their families.

To review the USA Hockey Warrior Hockey Rules and criteria for eligibility go to: <a href="https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/64e3-3150188/2024-">https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/64e3-3150188/2024-</a>

2025 USA Hockey Warrior Hockey Rules.pdf

If you qualify and would like to join the Warrior team, please go to <a href="https://www.flyerswarriors.com/join">https://www.flyerswarriors.com/join</a> and fill out the online form.



# **Countdown to Daylight Savings Time!**

<u>Daylight Saving Time</u> is less than 2 weeks away, and the time to start thinking about when we spring forward in the United States is officially here.

Daylight Saving time starts the second Sunday in March when we turn clocks forward an hour. Daylight Saving Time ends on the first Sunday of November and that's when we turn clocks back an hour.

In the U.S., clocks will officially spring forward at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 9, 2025.

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Shamrocks, green clothing and a trip to a pub for a pint of Guinness. The bold may even put on a "Kiss me, I'm Irish" shirt (Or "Kiss me, I'm Irish," for the Raygun fans).

While St. Patrick's Day is not recognized as a federal holiday in the U.S., it gives both Irish and non-Irish Americans a reason to celebrate. It is a national holiday in Ireland, and while the celebration kicks off tourist season now, 40 years ago, the day was marked with religious observations that even closed down bars.

**Who was St. Patrick?** St. Patrick wasn't Irish — he was born in Britain near the end of the fourth century and was taken prisoner by Irish raiders when he was 16. He spent six years in captivity in Ireland, where he eventually became a devout Christian.

According to Patrick's writing, he believed God's voice spoke to him in a dream and told him to leave Ireland — and he escaped. Later, in another dream, he wrote that an angel had told him to return to Ireland as a missionary, and he became a priest after 15 years of study.

While many believe St. Patrick was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland, it was reported that his mission was to minister to existing Irish Christians as well as convert non-Christians.

St. Patrick's Day, the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland, falls on March 17th every year. *In 2025, March 17th is a Monday*.











# & MORE...

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

Spring can't be too far away (can it?) This is a generous donation of 100 bags of Raised Bed Soil and 80 bags of mulch donated by local Home Depot stores in Deptford and Vineland. Can't wait until we can dig in!



# **Cooking Corner**



# Chicken Paprika Shepherd's Pie

Take a homey spin on chicken breasts using mashed potatoes & veggies.

# Ingredients

- 1 pouch (4.7 oz) Betty Crocker™ roasted garlic mashed potatoes Water, milk and butter called for on potatoes pouch
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 lb boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, chopped (½ cup)
- 1½ cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 jar (12 oz) home-style chicken gravy
- 21/4 tsp paprika

#### **Directions**

- \* Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 2-quart shallow casserole or 8-inch square glass baking dish with cooking spray. Make potatoes as directed on pouch using water, milk and butter.
- \* Meanwhile, in 12-inch nonstick skillet, melted remaining 1 tbsp butter over medium-high heat. Add chicken and onion; cook 4 to 6 min., stirring frequently, until chicken is no longer pink in center. Stir to mixed vegetables, gravy and 2 tsp of the paprika. Cover; cook over medium-low heat 5 min., stirring frequently to prevent sticking.
- \* Stir sour cream into chicken mixture. Spoon into casserole. Spoon or pipe potatoes in 8 mounds around edge of casserole. Sprinkle potatoes with remaining ¼ tsp paprika.
- \* Bake uncovered 25 to 35 min. or until mixture bubbles around edge of casserole.

Prep Time: 20 min Total Time: 55 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

## **Casino Night**

Saturday, November 15, 2024
Time: 5:30pm—10:30pm
Sapphire Grand Deptford
1849 Cooper St., Deptford, NJ 08096
[To support the Paul M. Blackstock
Scholarship program]

## **Wreaths of Remembrance**

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

# **PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION**

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Be a helping hand. Click below.



