

Darienite

News for Darien

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Have You Heard? ... Christmas Season Doings and Givings

Author : David Gurliacci

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Here's the low down on what's up around town:

Pre-K students at Methodist Family Center Preschool recently enjoyed a visit from Elizabeth Merow, Community Outreach Manager at The Connecticut Humane Society, and several of her furry friends.

Through games and interactive exercises, the children learned about the preferred foods and habitats of different animals, and how each like to be touched and cared for.

To thank Ms. Merow for spending time with them, the class presented her with items to be donated to pets at a local animal shelter. "This was such a special event for our students, from start to finish.

They worked so hard to collect items from the Humane Society's Wish List, and then were rewarded with such an engaging and educational experience. We are so grateful to Beth for visiting us," said Laurie Anderson, MFCP Director.

The Darien Police Department has welcomed its newest member after Paul Johnson, chairman of the Police Commission and Chief Ray Osborne swore in Eric Holder as a probationary police officer.

Holder was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and graduated from Loughlin High School in 1996. He earned vachelor's degrees from Lincoln University and the Empire State College.

Prior to joining the Darien Police Department, Holder had been employed as a Bridgeport Police Officer since 2012, serving as a field training officer. Holder began his training with the Darien Police Department on Nov. 30.



PERSON-TO-PERSON
p2pHelps.org

shop HEALTHY. GIVE healthy.

This is a list of the items we stock in the P2P Food Pantries. Help us promote healthy eating habits by selecting and donating items labeled as low in sodium, no salt added, unsweetened, low sugar, no sugar added and made from whole grains.

Dairy

- 1% Low-Fat or Fat-Free Shelf-Stable Milk
- Non-Dairy Milk (Soy, Almond, Cashew, etc.)

Fruits & Vegetables

- Fruits Canned in 100% Fruit Juice
- Apple Sauce (Unsweetened)
- Dried Fruits (Raisins, Prunes, Apricots, etc.)
- Canned Vegetables

Soups & Stews

- Soups (Canned or Boxed)
- Stews and Chili (Canned or Boxed)

Grains

- Pasta (Whole Grain)
- Rice or Quinoa
- Oatmeal (Unflavored Packets)
- Cereal (Whole Grain)
- Mac and Cheese (Whole Grain)

Protein

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Beans and Lentils
- Dried Beans and Lentils
- Canned Tuna, Salmon, Chicken In Water

Jellies, Sauces and Stocks

- Jelly or 100% Fruit Spread
- Pasta Sauce
- Broth or Stock

Snack Foods

- Jell-O
- Healthy Snacks – Protein, Breakfast and Granola Bars; Unsalted Nuts and Seeds; Whole Grain Crackers; Popcorn (Individual Packets)

For More Information, Contact

Janet King, Director of Volunteers
1864 Post Road | Darien
203 621-0683
janetking@p2pHelps.org

Susan Zelman, Norwalk Site Manager
76 South Main Street | Norwalk
203 621-0703
susanzelman@p2pHelps.org

The TD Charitable Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant for the Person-to-Person Emergency Assistance Program.

TD Bank, through the TD Charitable Foundation, carries a legacy of supporting not-for-profit institutions and their important work throughout the region. In the award letter, Connecticut Market President Michael J LaBella wrote, "We believe that organizations such as yours play a significant role in sustaining vibrant and thriving communities."

Tori Barnett, Jay Bennett and Emily Kroenlein have joined the Darien Library Board of Trustees.

Tori Barnett is the wife of Andrew Barnett and mom to Turner, Charlie and Sutton. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and previously worked for The Heritage Foundation.

Prior to moving to Darien, Tori worked for ABC News, 20/20 and did consulting work for various authors, speakers and writers. Previously, Tori served as the co-chair of the Darien Library annual fundraiser as well as the board chair for Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School. She is currently the teaching director for Community Bible Study, New Canaan/Darien.

Jay Bennett and his wife Mary have lived in Darien for 30 years where they raised their four children: Eliza, Courtney, Jack and Ellie. Jay is a Managing Director and Partner for Greenwich Associates. He leads the firm's equity practices, works with clients' senior equity management teams across the US, Canada, UK and Hong Kong.

Before joining Greenwich Associates in 1985, Jay was a strategy consultant for Mars & Co and an Assistant Vice President for Manufacturers Hanover. Jay received his BA magna cum laude in political economics from Princeton and his MBA from Harvard.

Emily Kroenlein lives in Darien with her husband Rob Schlein and three daughters, Elizabeth, Beatrice and Eleanor. Previously, she worked at Sullivan & Cromwell in mergers and acquisitions in their New York, Paris and London offices before switching to a corporate path at Diageo PLC in London.

Since returning home, she has been an active volunteer at Ox Ridge school, through Girl Scouts and with DAEG, including having served as Enrichment Coordinator for the elementary schools in the district. Emily graduated from Princeton (summa/Phi Beta Kappa) and Harvard Law School (cum laude).

The 23rd Annual P2P Holiday Toy Store attracted a slew of volunteers giving gifts and time to help clients of Person-to-Person have a merrier Christmas. You can see joy in these pictures, over and over again:

(all these photos are from Person-to-Person on Twitter)

By Saturday, Dec. 16, it was all over. P2P thanked all who helped — the committee, the donors, the volunteer elves and the staff.

Darien Toy Box hosted a toy drive for customers to purchase and donate toys and games. Barrett Bookstore donated 300 books to the 23rd Annual P2P Holiday Toy Store. Bookstore shoppers who donated several dozen more.

Nicholas deSpoelberch of Darien gave a very moving talk last year at a Town Hall forum on the opioid epidemic. He spoke recently at a forum sponsored by Forbes magazine:

"I'm here today because a lot of people helped me to get better," he said. "I wanted to express the pain and the hopelessness one feels in this addiction, but that there's hope, too, and there's a lot of resources out there."

He now works with teenagers who are addicted to heroin. "It's a disaster," he said. "We need as much help as we can get."

[Forbe's short article, mostly on his presentation](#) included this 8 1/2-minute video: