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Working to help our struggling  
neighbors through difficult  
times with dignity.



Summer 2018

Dear friends –

*Those of you that regularly receive my letters know how very much I love summer. Those of you that are receiving my letter for the first time will come to know how very much I love summer.*

*It's not that I don't relish the other seasons. I'm a big fan of autumn. I love it when the air gets a crisp tang to it and the leaves start to fall. Spring is good, too (when we have a spring), with its gentle breezes and gorgeous blooms. Winter is wonderful especially when it brings fluffy snowflakes right around the December holidays and the New Year.*

*But summer is something special.*

*Hot town, summer in the city*

*Summer breeze makes me feel fine*

*Hot fun in the summertime*

*Summer is here and the time is right for dancing in the street*

*When I was a kid growing up in Nyack, summer was all about freedom. We had no set schedule, no set places to be, no school to attend, no homework to do. We were free! All we had to do was make our beds in the morning, swim in backyard pools in the afternoon and be on time for dinner. Speaking of dinner - summer dinners were all about hamburgers on the grill, corn on the cob and watermelon. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there were family picnics, neighborhood barbeques, firehouse clam bakes.*

*Ah, yes - Summertime and the living is easy.*

*Here's the thing: the living isn't easy in the summertime for parents that struggle to put food on the table, to feed their kids. During the school year, children from low-income families receive breakfast and lunch at school through state and federal programs. For these families and for these kids, summer isn't about freedom, isn't about camp, isn't about swimming pools – it's about worrying over what – if anything - they'll have for breakfast or lunch or dinner.*

*So summertime is when PtoP's Food Pantry provides families with extra cereal, extra macaroni and cheese, extra tuna, extra fresh fruits and vegetables, extra everything so that there will be something on the table at breakfast and lunch and dinner.*

*When I was a kid, it seemed like summer lasted forever. I'm much older now (and I'm dealing with that, really, I am) and it seems as if summer is over in a blink of the eye. Before we know it, September is here and it's time to go back to school.*

*At PtoP, summertime is all about making sure that kids from low-income families don't go to bed hungry and can go Back To School With Dignity in September.*

- over, please -

*A bazillion studies indicate that education is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty. A bazillion studies indicate that hungry kids can't learn.*

*At PtoP, we work to make sure that Rockland children from low-income families don't go hungry and that they can start school with the basic tools they need to be successful. PtoP's Back To School With Dignity program provides brand new backpacks filled with grade appropriate school supplies to nearly 2,000 children from low-income families.*

*Trust me on this - it isn't easy to make all of this happen. Trust me on this - we can't do this without you.*

*And, so, here we are at the part of my letter where I ask you to help me. Believe me, if I were to win Powerball or Lotto, I wouldn't have to ask you to help me. But I haven't won yet (the fact that I don't buy tickets for these things goes a long way to explaining why I haven't won). Still, hope springs eternal.*

*My hope is that YOU will help MAKE People to People A WINNER. Fact is, PtoP already is a winner. We recently received a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator (its highest rating) in recognition of our outstanding effectiveness and efficient use of resources. All of us at PtoP are incredibly proud of this.*

*Still, all the stars in the world won't matter if we can't fulfill our mission. In order to fulfill our mission, PtoP needs significantly more financial resources.*

*So, be a star and make a contribution to assure that PtoP can continue to do what must be done – feed Rockland's hungry and give at-risk children a chance at being stars themselves.*

*With all my heart,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Serratore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Diane Serratore  
Executive Director*