

Pedro Perez is committed to serving the underserved. He helps people in poverty gain access to housing, education, sustainable employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities, exemplifying his commitment to equity and social justice.

Raised by a single mother, Pedro has a personal story of economic mobility.

When his father abandoned his family, his mother did not speak English but quickly learned the language and obtained her GED. She then pursued and received her LPN, bachelor's, and master's degree, becoming a registered nurse and ultimately a nursing administrator for the local hospital.

Following in his mother's footsteps of hard work and achievement, he rose to the rank of brigadier general in the New York State Police. He served as interim superintendent during Governor Spitzer's and Governor Paterson's administrations. He made New York State Police history by becoming the highest-ranking Afro-Caribbean Taíno Indian. Throughout his 29-year tenure with this statewide policing agency, he advocated assertively and helped actualize greater inclusion of men and women of color within its ranks. He was also inspired to pursue higher learning by his mother. Perez has a Master of Public Administration from Marist College, and he is a certified national trainer/presenter for the AHA process - Bridges Out of Poverty.

Pedro dedicates himself to helping families living in poverty gain access to safe housing, educational opportunities, and economic success, focusing on people of color. His background includes serving as the executive director of the Capital District YMCA and the My Brother's and Sister's Keeper Initiative and project director of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative at CARES. Pedro advocates and struggles for the full participation in the American Dream of the people he serves. He now devotes his energy and passion to helping the families served by Charlotte Family Housing find and keep housing, gain and sustain a career offering a living wage, and provide generational wealth to their children..

On a personal note, Pedro is also a Kyoshi seventh-degree black belt in Myo Suki Ryu Jujitsu and Renshi sixth-degree black belt instructor of karate. He is an Afro-Caribbean master conguero (conga drummer) who performs in the capital region of New York, nationally, and internationally with his own Mambo Dragons band and several other musical groups. Also, he enjoys playing chess, albeit at times ineptly with some of his colleagues.

Charlotte Family Housing

Charlotte Family Housing (CFH) is a shelter-to-housing program for families experiencing homelessness. Its mission is to empower families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy.

For more information, visit www.charlottefamilyhousing.org.