



# The Family-to-Family Project

*Restoring homes,  
and hope,  
in Massachusetts  
since 1988.*

summer 2009

## family TO family news

### From the New Executive Director: The Urgency of Our Mission

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to be writing my first letter to all of you as the new Executive Director for The Family-to-Family Project. I have had a tremendous first couple of months here and appreciate so many of you that have taken the time to sit with me as I learn about the opportunities and challenges we face in the prevention of family homelessness. Two things I have been struck by most as I have gone on this two month journey with you...

President Barack Obama recently stated in a televised press conference "It is not acceptable for children and families to be without a roof over their heads in a country as wealthy as ours". This bold statement by our President resonates right to the mission of the Project, and really speaks to the incredible legacy that was started in 1988. Our founders, Paul and Katie Buttenweiser, were rooted in this statement and have engaged so many philanthropic donors over the years that understand their impact. I am humbled and honored to be shepherding this legacy.

The National Center on Family Homelessness cited in their 2008 study that 1 out of 50 children in the United States are homeless each year. I believe this speaks directly to our mission work in the prevention of family homelessness. Our proud history shows us that we have impacted over 22,000 children that were victims of homelessness. Our work today and beyond will focus on no children being forced into homelessness and a strong, collaborative prevention strategy to ensure every child in Massachusetts has a home they can sleep in every night.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, our community partners and the thousands of lives she has impacted, I want to say thank you to our previous Executive Director Erin O'Connor Jones. I am very fortunate to be following in the footsteps of such a strong leader that has positioned Family to Family well into the future so we can focus on our mission work.

**Scott K. Smith**, *Executive Director*

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# The Family to Family Project

## Staff and Board

Scott K. Smith, *Executive Director*  
Robin Morgan, *Associate Director*

John Tittmann, *President*  
Robert Pulster, *Vice President*  
John Hickman, *Treasurer*  
Jane Bernstein, *Clerk*

Lisa Crane  
Joellen Gavin  
John Moukad  
Anne Robertson  
Laura Spiro  
Peter Stevens  
Steven Weinstein

Katie and Paul Bittenwieser,  
*Founders*

## How We Help

In 1988 a few families from the Cambridge area joined together to discuss Jonathan Kozol's book *Rachel and Her Children*. This discussion inspired the Family-to-Family Project, and from this small but motivated group of neighbors, a network was created that brings hope to families.

The Project works directly with community organizations to maximize our impact on families and their children. We assist families with rent, mortgages, educational expenses and other immediate needs that will have a tangible, long-term and positive impact on their lives. We advocate and collaborate with community providers, government officials and other agencies concerned with homelessness to improve the quality of life for families throughout Massachusetts.

This network of caring neighbors has grown to include over 1,100 families, individuals, and organizations. By the end of 2009, more than 8,400 families and 22,000 children will have received desperately needed assistance through the generosity of Project donors.

## Making a Difference, Together.

The mission work of Family-to-Family would not be possible without the tremendous efforts of our community partners. Each works tirelessly on behalf of children and families throughout Massachusetts to end family homelessness. We are proud of each in the work we do together.

### ABCD

Baycove Human Services - TPP  
Boston Emergency Shelter Commission  
Bridge Fund of Massachusetts  
Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services  
Cambridge Multi-Service Center  
Casa Myrna Vazquez  
Casa Neuva Vida  
Community Action Agency of Somerville  
Community Action Programs Inter-City  
Community Teamworks  
Crittenton Women's Union  
Crossroads Family Shelter  
DOVE  
Elizabeth Stone House  
ESAC  
Father Bills Mainspring  
Framingham Resource Center - SMOG  
Heading Home

### Hildebrand Self-Help Center HomeStart

Horizons Homeless Children  
Housing Families  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Metropolitan Boston Housing Program  
MSPCC  
North Shore Community Action Program  
One Family Scholars  
Passageway  
Project Hope  
Quincy Community Action Program  
Sojourner House  
Somerville Homeless Coalition  
The Second Step  
Travelers Aid  
Victory Program  
Wellspring House

## Your Support Matters

The Family-to-Family Project is entirely funded through the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations. We are grateful for your ongoing support, and as the thank you notes below express, it truly makes a direct impact on the lives of families.

"I just wanted to send you this card to say thank you for providing me with the funds to purchase a car. Thanks to you, I am now able to be independent and get my children to daycare and myself to school. Thank you again for your generosity." —*Single mother and her 3 children living in Somerville*

"After receiving news that your organization would help me restore my electricity back, I broke down in tears. After spending 10 weeks in my apartment with no electricity, unable to cook or function normally, my daughter's grades at school went down, which triggered a lot of concern ... We are finally able to once again have a functioning home, and my daughter is able to do homework and get her grades up again. Family-to-Family, thank you from the bottom of my heart." —*Single mother and daughter living in Roxbury*

**Give Online** Log on to our website, [www.ftfp.org](http://www.ftfp.org), to make a quick and secure donation.

**Give By Mail** Send your check to: **The Family-to-Family Project, 14 Beacon Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02108.**

**Give By Phone** Make a credit card contribution over the phone by calling **617-624-3837.**

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in Massachusetts since 1988.*



## A Story of Hope



Lisa, a single mother of five young children, was working two jobs to make ends meet and provide for her family. She and her children became displaced after the family lost their home in a devastating fire that almost took their lives. Without anything but the clothes on her children's backs and the will to stay together, this determined mother turned to the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) for support and direction.

Lisa and her family had a Section 8 certificate, which allows the family to only pay 30% of their income for rent, while the government subsidizes the remaining amount. If they hadn't moved immediately they would lose their certificate to another family. The Family-to-Family Project (FTFP) and SHC coordinated efforts to keep the family together and preserve the certificate. SHC paid for

Lisa and her children to live in a hotel for two nights while they found an available apartment. FTFP provided the funding for a security deposit so the family could move into a safe and secure home.

During this terrible crisis, Lisa was able to keep her job, and her children continued to attend school. Lisa and her family are still in the apartment. Without the critical assistance that Family-to-Family provided, made possible through the generosity of our donors, Lisa's family would have been forced to move to a shelter, likely far from their school and work.

*“It is not acceptable for children and families to be without a roof over their heads in a country as wealthy as ours.”* —PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

## ICHH launches Regional Networks to End Homelessness



This winter, with the assistance of special state funding, the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH) launched eight regional networks throughout the Commonwealth to help agencies coordinate, streamline services, and find permanent housing for homeless families. This regional network system is hoping to identify best practices through flexible housing resources and innovative services to help achieve our ultimate goal of permanently ending homelessness in Massachusetts. The network is a public-private sector collaboration focused on prevention and intervention using innovative initiatives that will be better for the community and better for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Family-to-Family Project is participating in both the Boston and Metro-Boston networks to end homelessness. Our participation will help to define best practices, identify policy improvements, and raise critical issues.

Naomi Schweitzer, Assistant Executive Director of HomeStart and member of the Leadership Council was thrilled to see Family to Family engaged in a meaningful way. “Family to Family Project is an important presence in the Network, they bring their experience of creating collaborations and community-based solutions to ending homelessness as the Network gets off the ground.”

# Announcement



The Board of Directors of the Family-to-Family Project is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Smith as Executive Director.

Smith emerged from a six month, nationwide search as the top candidate and was a unanimous choice by the Board. “I think his experience in non-profit management combined with his genuine passion for our mission will help us advance Family to Family well into the future” said John Tittmann, Board Chair.

Smith is a twenty six year veteran non-profit leader having worked with non-profits in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. A resident of the city of Boston, Smith brings extensive experience in community partnerships, financial development, strategic planning and public policy. “I am very honored to be serving an organization that has such a tremendous and immediate impact on the lives of families. Family to Family has a proud history and an even more exciting future” said Smith.



## our mission

*The Family-to-Family Project supports families who are losing or have lost their homes by providing timely, innovative, and flexible grants to restore hope and to find and retain their housing.*



**The Family-to-Family Project**  
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