



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE FAMILY TO FAMILY PROJECT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF BRINGING  
HOPE TO HOMELESS FAMILIES**  
***“A Family Gathering” will Honor the Leadership of Providers and Agencies Working to  
End Family Homelessness***

**BOSTON, July 25, 2007** –To commemorate 20 years of providing hope to homeless families and those on the brink of homelessness throughout Massachusetts, The Family-to-Family Project (FTFP) is celebrating with a gala dinner, “A Family Gathering” on October 17, 2007. This first-ever benefit for the organization is a celebration of community and social justice and aims to engage a wider public in the campaign to end family homelessness. The dinner, chaired by the Project’s founders Paul and Katie Bittenwieser, honors **Sister Margaret A. Leonard, LSA**, Founder and Executive Director, Project Hope and **Jim O’Connell, MD**, Medical Director, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and features a talk by Philip Mangano, Executive Director, US Interagency Council on Homelessness.

“From its inception the goal of The Family to Family Project has been to find ways to support and help families who are struggling with homelessness,” says Paul Bittenwieser. “Now we want to expand this effort and create a broader awareness about the problem today and its impact on the entire community.” A large turn-out of civic, community, and philanthropic leaders, led by the dinner’s Honorary Chairs, Governor Deval Patrick and Mrs. Diane Patrick, is supporting the benefit, which will be held at the Boston Center of the Arts’ Cyclorama in the South End. The evening will be opened by the Berklee College Gospel Choir.

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For more information on the dinner, contact event planner Karen DeTemple at 617.624.3837 or visit the organization's website at [www.ftfp.org](http://www.ftfp.org).

### **ABOUT THE FAMILY TO FAMILY PROJECT:**

FTFP aids families who are losing or have lost their homes by providing timely, innovative and flexible grants to help families restore hope and find or keep their housing. The effort began in 1988 when a group of families, inspired by Jonathan Kozol's *Rachel and Her Children*, met to discuss what they could do to address the growing crisis. They each made a commitment to assist one homeless family through existing shelters. Encouraged by the success of this model, they formed the Family-to-Family Project. As of the end of 2006, more than 5,000 children and their families have been assisted through the Project. FTFP works directly with community organizations to maximize its impact on families and their children. By continuously working to assist families with rent, mortgages, education and other immediate needs, the organization focuses on having a long-term positive impact on these lives. In addition, FTFP advocates and works with community providers, government officials and a variety of agencies to improve the quality of life for families throughout Massachusetts who work with homelessness and homelessness prevention. For more information, visit The Family-to-Family Project at [www.ftfp.org](http://www.ftfp.org).

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