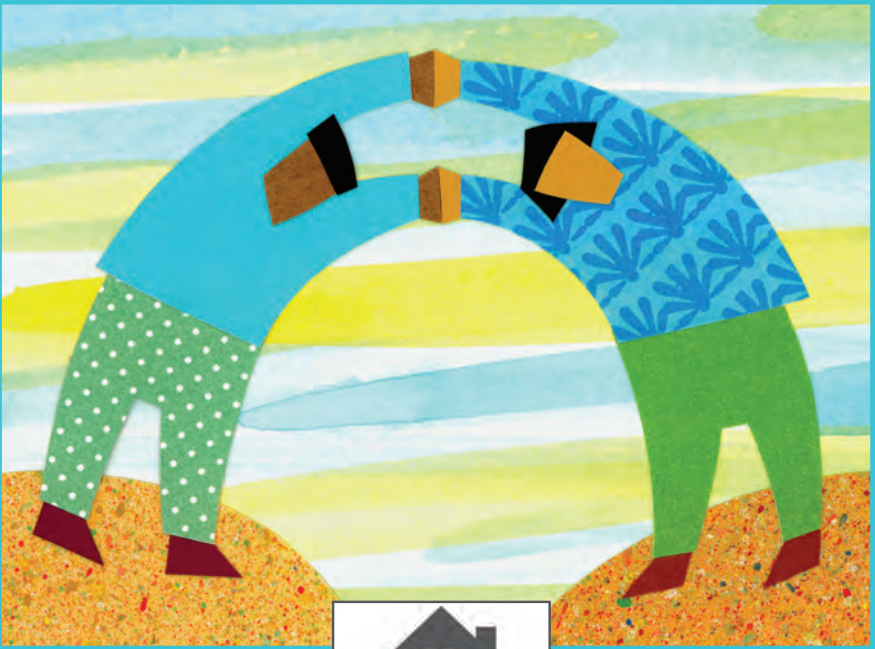


family-TO-family

Restoring homes, and hope, in Massachusetts since 1988

Annual Report FY2012-2013



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.



Dear Friends of the Family-to-Family Project,

This year we celebrated the Family-to-Family Project's 25th year of providing financial assistance to support families who are in danger of losing their homes or who have lost their homes. As an independent, privately funded organization, we are unique in our ability to provide flexible and timely grants.

We are often the only option for funding assistance for a large number of families. Many of the families that turn to the Family-to-Family Project for help have incomes that do not meet eligibility criteria for housing assistance by the state. We typically pay rent arrearages for families with good prospects for long-term housing and income stability. Paying a few months rent keeps these families stable and out of the shelter system.

Every donor to the Family-to-Family Project is an investor in our mission. Our donors play a vital role in keeping families together in their homes, by financially supporting the Family-to-Family Project. It is because of our generous and loyal donors that we are able to truly make a difference in the lives of families. We can't thank our donors enough for their support.

The Family-to-Family Project could not succeed without the great work of our partner organizations. We work closely with over 40 organizations in Massachusetts to provide direct resources that benefit families and their children. These partner organizations play a key role in matching our grants to families, where their knowledge of the specific situation brings us confidence that we can make a difference.

We strive to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. To study and understand the impact of our funding, two years ago we launched the Family Homelessness Prevention Project. This project, funded with lead foundation support from the Oak Foundation and Jane's Trust, is a three-year endeavor. The third and last year of data collection will be complete by the end of this calendar year.

The study tracks the outcomes of our grants to families. It is a first step towards knowing the outcome of our charitable work. We want our grants to make the biggest impact possible for each family we serve. This analysis will help the Family-to-Family Project to learn and to improve grant-making decisions. Our findings will also be presented and shared with direct service colleagues in family homelessness prevention, as well as with policy makers and funders. While the families in the study are in the Boston area, the implications are important for homelessness prevention programs nationally.

Transitions are a part of the life of any organization. After five years at the Family-to-Family Project, first as an Associate Director and then as our Interim Executive Director, Robin Morgan will be leaving this Fall. Robin recently completed her Masters in Social Work and is taking her career in a new direction to work as a Clinical Social Worker at Boston Medical Center. Fortunately, Robin will continue to be involved and provide assistance through this transition as we begin the search to hire a new Executive Director. We are grateful for her years serving the Family-to-Family Project and its mission.

Our 25th anniversary milestone provides an opportunity to reflect and assess. Family-to-Family is beginning a strategic planning process and we look forward to taking a hard look at where we are today, where we want to be and what it will take to move forward.

While we look back in gratitude for twenty-five years of helping families in need, we look forward to the day where we can celebrate the end of family homelessness. However, until that day comes, we will continue to work towards that goal with your help.

Sincerely,



Ellen Cross
Board Chair



Robin Morgan
Interim Executive Director



Celebrating Hope

On May 2, 2013 the Family-to-Family Project celebrated our 25th Anniversary. We are grateful to our lead sponsor, Blue Hills Bank, for supporting the Celebrating Hope anniversary event at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Celebrating Hope honors the legacy the founders of the Family-to-Family Project, Paul and Katie Buttenwieser, and their work preventing family homelessness. At the anniversary celebration we presented a Buttenwieser Award to the Ludcke Foundation, Chair Daniel S. Cheever and Sheneal Parker, a former client of FamilyAid Boston. The Ludcke Foundation supports organizations that provide needed resources and services to children and families, with an emphasis on emotional and physical health, education and social development.

Ellen Cross, FTFP Board Chair, congratulates Daniel Cheever, Chair of the Ludcke Foundation

The Family-to-Family Project could not succeed without the great work of partner organizations such as FamilyAid Boston. FamilyAid Boston is the largest provider of services to homeless families in the city. It helps families avoid homelessness, offers emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and provides employment assistance services, all of which helps families regain their stability. We were privileged to hear Sheneal Parker's story of how our financial support helped her provide for her family and realize career goals that have led to both financial stability and personal success as a teacher.

We are grateful to the Museum of Fine Arts Boston for its generosity in providing a wonderful space for our celebration and for opening its magnificent galleries to those who attended Celebrating Hope. It was a great occasion!



Celebrating Hope at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Sheneal Parker's Success Story



Sheneal Parker

Sheneal Parker is an elementary school teacher in the Boston Public School system as well as a business owner and community activist. She holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University, as well as an MS in Criminal Justice and an MPA from Suffolk University. She is currently an EdD candidate in the Leadership in Urban Schools Program at UMass Boston. In 2011, Sheneal organized her community around issues from affordable housing to health and obesity, and also ran for Boston City Council (District 7). Her passion is to inspire young people to find a pathway to leadership and entrepreneurship.

However, among Sheneal's many undertakings, being a single-mother to her son is one of her most important roles. This has certainly influenced her general approach to life. She was just a teenager when she had to help care for her five sisters. She understands how hard it is to raise a family and how hard difficulties can be to overcome.

In 2010, Sheneal's summer teaching job fell through and she got behind in the rent for her co-op apartment. She worked during the school year as a substitute teacher while working towards a full teacher license. She was not able to catch up on the rent and struggled to find an agency that would help her. When her family's housing was at risk, she sought help at FamilyAid Boston (formerly Travelers Aid), who submitted a request to the Family-to-Family Project on her behalf. The Family-to-Family Project was able to pay her back rent and stabilize her housing. Sheneal was able to get back on track and thrive. The Family-to-Family Project presented Sheneal with a Bittenwieser Award in May 2013 in recognition of her hard work and perseverance.



Paul and Katie Bittenwieser at Celebrating Hope

Update on the Family Homelessness Prevention Project

The Family-to-Family Project (FTFP) is completing the third and final year of its Family Homelessness Prevention Project. To execute this project, Family-to-Family is working with our research partner, the Center for Social Policy at University of Massachusetts, Boston and three direct service providers – FamilyAid Boston, HomeStart, and Project Hope. The primary objectives of the project are to:

- Assist 150 families living in Boston with flexible grants to prevent homelessness;
- Assess the effectiveness of flexible financial assistance in relation to housing stability;
- Review the practices of Family-to-Family to maximize the effectiveness of our support;
- Share findings with others in the field.

By the end of year two of the program (December 2012), we had served 141 families. Most of these families were facing eviction at the time of application and most (86%) had not received an eviction notice in the past five years. Only 16% of families had previously been homeless. Half of families served were living in market rent housing. Families were predominantly African-American and were headed by a single parent. 44% of parents had some college education or a degree. The median income of families was \$2,194/month with most families having incomes above the poverty line at the time of application.

Twelve months following receipt of financial assistance from Family-to-Family, all but one family retained their housing. However, housing challenges remained and economic challenges persisted, reflecting the impact of stagnant wages and an expensive rental market in Boston. We look forward to the final data and recommendations for our work into the future. FTFP will present a final report at the end of 2013 and is planning a public forum in early 2014 to discuss the research and its implications for FTFP and beyond.



Please Like us on Facebook!

Financial Summary FY2012-2013

This is not a complete financial statement. A complete, audited financial statement is available upon request.

Income	\$402,049
Expenses	\$379,043
Administrative	\$49,665

The administrative costs included all expenses related to the operations of the organization not directly related to programs or fundraising.

Fundraising	\$106,588
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The fundraising costs include all expenses related to raising funds including printing, postage, event costs, and staff time.

Program	\$222,790
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The program costs include all expenses related to our efforts to prevent and reverse family homelessness. In addition to the cost of staff time, this includes financial assistance for families (\$101,022), case management and research associated with the Family Homelessness Prevention Project (\$50,000).



Help us reduce administrative costs and save the environment at the same time! If you would like to receive communications from us electronically (we promise not to send too many) please email us at info@ftfp.org.



Program Summary for FY2012-2013

Through the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations, the Family-to-Family Project provided over \$101,000 in financial assistance for families during the FY2012-13 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013). The average grant for homelessness prevention was \$1,512 per family, and the average grant for our Battenwieser Family Enrichment Program was \$350 per child. FTFP provided financial assistance for 56 families to prevent homelessness and provided scholarships for 48 children who were at risk or formerly homeless to attend summer camp. Grants for homelessness prevention paid for education expenses, relocation and startup costs, utility payments, car repairs, and back rent.

Children and Families Served

<i>Flexible Funding</i>	56 families	99 children
<i>Battenwieser Family Enrichment Fund</i>	48 families	48 children
<hr/>		
Total:	104 families	147 children

Demographics of Families Served

- 40% African-American, 26% Latino, 17% White, 9% other, 4% biracial, and 4% Cape Verdean;
- 85% of families had one or two children;
- 78% of parents were working full or part time;
- Average age of parents was 34;
- 48% of parents had some college education;
- 32% of families were residing in market rate housing; and
- 91% of households were headed by a single parent.

Where Funding Goes

Back rent.....	64%
Short term rental subsidy.....	14%
Start up costs/Relocation.....	7%
Summer camp.....	5%
Utility bills.....	5%
Education.....	2%
Other (childcare, furniture, transportation).....	3%

Our Partners

The Family-to-Family Project partners with direct service providers in the community from Eastern Massachusetts including Greater Boston, North Shore, South Shore, and the Merrimack Valley. We choose our partners carefully based on a strong track record in excellent case management. Case managers from the following agencies submit requests on behalf of families in need.

ABCD

Baycove Human Services

Boston Emergency Shelter Commission

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

Bridge Fund of Massachusetts

Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services

Cambridge Multi-Service Center

Casa Myrna Vazquez

Casa Nueva Vida

Catholic Charities – Yawkey Center

Community Action Agency of Somerville

Community Action Programs Inter-City

Community Teamwork Inc.

Crittenton Women’s Union

Crossroads Family Shelter

DOVE

Elizabeth Stone House

ESAC

FamilyAid Boston

Father Bill’s & MainSpring

Friends of the Children

Framingham Resource Center – SMOC

Heading Home

Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center

HomeStart

Horizons for Homeless Children

Housing Families

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership

MSPCC

North Shore Community Action Program

One Family Scholars

Passageway

Project Hope

Quincy Community Action Program

Sojourner House

Somerville Homeless Coalition

St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children

The Second Step

Victory Programs

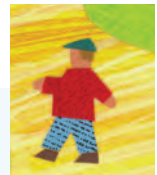
Wellspring House

Yad Chessed – Boston’s Jewish Safety Net

The Family-to-Family Project has a special partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Housing Stabilization Unit and its Temporary Home for Women and Children.

An Important Statistic

According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, children are the largest growing segment of the homeless population. It is an invisible and devastating problem. While there has been a 19% decline since 2007 in chronically homeless single adults, there has been a 13% increase in families that become homeless. So, an organization like ours continues its essential work with these parents and children.



Families Helping Families: Our Donor Families

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

The Family-to-Family Project gratefully acknowledges the donors who have supported our mission. Your generosity provides the Family-to-Family Project with the critical resources needed to maintain our efforts and to maximize our impact on the lives of families in need. We cannot do this without you and your family. Thank you!

\$5,000 and above

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Daniel Foster
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Sean Tuttle

The Family-to-Family Project makes every effort to ensure that our lists are complete and accurate. If you believe there may be an error or omission, please notify us.



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