



Providing support and information for families of children with disabilities, chronic illness and other special health care needs

## TxP2P Needs \$20 from YOU to Realize our Dreams for Texas

Debbie Burt, TxP2P Board Chair

**T**exas Parent to Parent will be 7 years old next month. Six years ago, we had 4 part-time staff members, and 128 families and a few professionals on our mailing list. Now we have 3 full-time and 7 part-time staff, and our mailing list includes 2,400 families in addition to 550 friends and professionals. We can now provide trained volunteers across the state to match with parents whose children have a new diagnosis. We provide a major parent conference annually, and we are developing our 5<sup>th</sup> Medical Education Program site for pediatric residents. Seven years ago we were just hatching the idea of a statewide parent to parent program, the only one in Texas, because we believe in the power of parent to parent support. Now we provide support and information to families all across the state. We are proud of how far we have come.

But we still have a long way to go. The number of families requesting our services is constantly increasing, and our small staff needs to grow in order to keep up with these requests for help, as well as to provide new services that address the changing needs of families as their children grow from infancy through adulthood. We want to assist more families, develop more programs, hold a bigger conference, hire more staff, and better support administrative staff. While we have had success in securing grant funding to support program expenses, we are still very much in need of unrestricted funding that can be used for administrative staff and fundraising expenses. Unrestricted funding comes mainly from personal donations and fundraisers. These monies are vital to adequately fund administrative and fundraising staff, which will allow us to strengthen Texas Parent to Parent's capacity to help Texas families, while ensuring our sustainability for future generations of families who need our help.

The administrative support to develop our programs is underfunded. If everyone who receives this newsletter donates \$10, we could finally pay our administrative staff a full salary! If everyone donates \$20, we could also realize our dream of hiring a professional fundraiser. We have all seen the power of many small donations coming together to make something big happen. Please help us today - look for the envelope included with this newsletter and mail us your donation - any amount you can spare will be joined with other donations to make TxP2P's dreams come true! Please do what you can to help us to build the state-wide parent to parent program that Texas deserves!

## Texas Parent to Parent

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