

FAMILY TIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARENT-TO-PARENT MATCH REQUEST INFORMATION & FORM



Parents of children with special needs often struggle with their emotions around the everyday challenges they face. This may happen at the time of your child's diagnosis - and reoccur with a new diagnosis, as well as throughout the many transitions from infancy through adulthood.

Talking with another parent, whose child has similar needs, can be helpful in coping with your experiences and your feelings. Our regional Parent Coordinators and volunteer Support Parents offer emotional support and parenting information.

What is Parent-to-Parent? Our Parent-to-Parent Program brings together parents facing similar challenges in raising their children with special needs, offering parents an opportunity to speak with another parent who faces similar challenges. Sharing experiences provides strength and support for each other.

Who Can Parent-to-Parent Help? Our Parent-to-Parent Match program is designed to connect parents who have children with special health care needs, such as a chronic illness, genetic conditions of all kinds, hearing or vision impairment, intellectual disabilities, Autism, Attention Deficit disorders, or language-based or other learning disabilities.

How Does Parent-to-Parent Work? The "Match" offers a chance to speak *by phone* with someone who has "been there" and helps you to realize, *you are not alone* in your parenting experiences. Trained volunteer Support Parents are coached to listen carefully, understand your concerns, and reflect on their own personal experiences in order to offer emotional support, while respecting confidentiality and cultural and individual differences. As an Alliance Member of Parent to Parent USA, we can reach out to matching programs across the country for complicated requests.

How Do I Contact You? To request a Parent Match, please fill out the attached Match Request form and mail it to our Statewide Parent-to-Parent Coordinator today! The Coordinator will contact you to discuss your individual needs upon receiving your request.

What is Family TIES of Massachusetts? Family TIES is a statewide network, offering information and emotional support to families of children with special needs or chronic illness, ages birth to 22. Staff members are parents of children with special needs, too. Parent Coordinators work in the state Regional Health Offices, providing assistance to families in their area of the state.

Regional Coordinators offer information and referral services for community resources, including support groups, upcoming conferences, recreational activities, public benefits, and more. We do not offer medical advice or make referrals to particular physicians, clinics, or agencies. Instead, we offer options to families searching for services and community activities. Call our toll-free line or visit our website to learn more.

♥ ♥ *On behalf of Family TIES, welcome to our Parent-to-Parent Program.* ♥ ♥

800-905-TIES (8437) ♥ ♥ ♥ www.massfamilyties.org

TOP TEN REASONS WHY YOU MAY WANT A PARENT-TO-PARENT MATCH



"From someone who's been in Holland awhile....."

- 1) Someone to welcome you to Holland (who's been there awhile!)
- 2) Someone to show you around (be a tour guide)
- 3) Someone to listen to all that you miss about not going to Italy (and share a tear or two for the loss)
- 4) Someone to help you learn the language (acronyms and all)
- 5) Someone to help you learn to smell the flowers and enjoy the tulips
- 6) Someone to show you the best guide books, web sites, and resources for your journey in this new land
- 7) Someone to share pictures (and hope!) with you of their trip to Holland
- 8) Someone to point out the Rembrandts when all you can see is a sketch of how things were supposed to be
- 9) Someone to help you understand (with time) that Holland might be a land where you can learn and grow (in areas you never imagined) and then reach back a hand to welcome a new family
- 10) A friend for the life-long journey

Written by Tracie Hoppis
Yakima County Parent to Parent Coordinator, Washington State



***Special words of thanks to Parent-to-Parent of Washington State
for sharing this lovely piece!***



Family TIES of Massachusetts is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, with funding from and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs.



Parent-to-Parent Match Request

Primary Caregiver Information

Please Print Clearly

Name _____	Home Phone _____
Relationship to Child _____	Cell Phone* _____
Mailing Address _____	Work Phone* _____
City/Town _____	<i>*Only if we can use as direct contact</i>
State/Zip Code _____	Email _____
Preferred Time to Call _____	Race / Ethnicity _____
Primary Language _____	Religion (optional) _____
Other Fluent Languages _____	
Family Household Structure: (please check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Married Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with Significant Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent	<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian-specify: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Step-Parent

Child Information

Childs Name _____	Gender: ___ Boy ___ Girl
Birth Date (month/year) _____	Age at Diagnosis _____
Primary Diagnosis _____	
Secondary Diagnosis _____	
Is child living at home? _____	If no, where? _____

State Reason for Match

Please tell us what you would like to discuss with your Support Parent, to help us to make an appropriate match:

In signing below, I give permission for Family TIES of Massachusetts to share this information with a Support Parent. First, the Parent-to-Parent Coordinator will call to confirm your information. *We look forward to speaking with you!*

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Mail Completed Form To:
Gloria Klaesges, Family TIES Parent-to-Parent Coordinator
MDPH-CRHO, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston, MA 01583

P2P Office Notes:

Referral from: _____ Program: _____
 Phone / Email: _____ Request ID: _____



Family TIES of Massachusetts is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, with funding from and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs.