

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF METROPOLITAN BALTIMORE



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY
Share Your Bounty

PAM KONER, FOUNDER & CEO

Founded in 2002, Family-to-Family is a grassroots nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing food, personal hygiene products and other basic life essentials to American families struggling with the challenges of poverty. Pam Koner, Founder & Executive Director, started her career as a fashion stylist and producer before leaving those industries to pursue her true passion being of service. Koner first founded The Homework Club Programs in New York City, a group of childcare programs that she eventually sold. She now oversees Family-to-Family full time and does this purely pro bono; selflessly not receiving a salary for the work she does.

Across the country Family-to-Family partners with organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs, community centers, schools and churches in order to bring their services to more communities. These partners then vet and choose which families are in most need of the goods and services provided by Family-to-Family. Beginning with just a small idea and 17 families in 2002, Family-to-Family now assists thousands of families in 27 communities across the country. As this exponential growth has come with its challenges, Koner says that the organization's primary focus right now is sustainability. However, if their current partners need them to take on additional families, they would gladly undertake this responsibility so long as the funding can be secured. Even more impressive, Koner estimates that about one-third of their donors and recipient families connect with each other after the initial donation, and often these relationships are continued and the families maintain contact.

For the past four years, over 25 BGCMB families have been able to receive support in numerous ways. Donor families have not only provided monthly stipends so that our families can provide healthy food items to their children but also donated clothing, shoes, cooking ware, electronics, activity materials, gift cards, etc. Several of our families have remained in contact with their donor families and all have expressed their gratitude for the much needed assistance. Koner's favorite part of the job is playing "fairy godmother." For example, her heart will be touched by someone who has a special need that she is actually able to provide. During the past hurricane season in Houston there was massive destruction and devastation. One family reached out to Koner and explained that their disabled child's wheelchair was lost in the storm. With a heavy heart she contacted her partners and was able to locate a new wheelchair for the child within hours. Whether there is a need due to life's everyday challenges or a natural disaster, Family-to-Family's unique one-to-one model allows for families to be the change they wish to see in the world.

Family-to-Family could not assist near the amount of families they currently do without the help of their dedicated staff and volunteers. With only one paid full-time employee and two paid part-time employees, the organization stays afloat with its 10 New York based volunteers and additional help from the "volunteer coordinators" located in each community they serve. If you are interested in helping Koner and Family-to-Family accomplish their mission, visit <https://www.family-to-family.org/sponsor-a-family/> to sponsor a family in need.