



## Meet Laurie, Support Services Manager at P2P

My biggest learning experience has come from being a mother of two children, both with learning differences. I enjoy working at P2PGA because I have the pleasure of being part of a great team.

In Support Services, we are all parents of children with special needs. Not only do we assist families, we support each other!

P2PGA has been a wonderful source of support during my stormy times. It's nice to be surrounded by people who "get it", fellow parents who share my passion for supporting and improving the lives of other families. One day at a time!



*"Every single day, children are being diagnosed for the first time with special needs."*

When I heard a keynote speaker start her presentation with those words, it lit a spark within me and inspired me to join the Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) staff back in 2008.

My name is Laurie Smith and I am the Support Services Manager. This means I over see the Supporting Parent Program. I am in charge of recruiting, training and quality assessment. Over the past 5 years I have held several positions. I started as a trainer then worked as a Regional Coordinator, providing one-on-one assistance to families over the phone, and later worked as a Webinar Supervisor. All of these roles have given me valuable experiences.

I continue to be excited to contribute and support P2P. Providing helpful advice and information is my area of expertise! Having reliable resources and support are influential in helping a child reach their full potential. I have learned this through my experiences as both a parent and a team member of P2P.

The moment of a child's diagnosis can be extremely difficult for families. P2P provides a warm and nurturing environment to put families at ease. Even though it is still difficult to see that every day more parents will be receiving that first diagnosis about their child, it is at least satisfying knowing, and being part of a warm and nurturing environment that cares and is doing something to help.