



## NAVIGATOR TEAM LEADER SPOTLIGHT

### **Yovanni Millings**

Yovanni Millings is a dynamic woman with a grateful heart. Her energy and enthusiasm for Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) and helping others is palpable. Two of Yovanni's three children have special needs. Her youngest son Noah has had an incredible journey, spending most of his first year in the hospital after being born prematurely weighing just over a pound. He has diagnoses of Cerebral Palsy and Autism. The specialized medical care he requires is not currently available in Yovanni's community. When we met her, she was traveling from her home in Albany GA to Atlanta for Noah's medical care. A three hour drive each way!

Yovanni found out about P2P from Sue Rowland, one of P2P's Parent Partners. When we talked to her, Yovanni shared that P2P gave her strength when things with Noah were overwhelming along with the resources to do what she needed to do at home. As a result, all of Noah's therapies including speech and occupational therapy are now done at home. Yovanni told us, "I wouldn't have been able to do that without the people who were connected to me through Parent to Parent of GA."



Yovanni is a wonderful example of someone who "pays it forward." She was so impressed with P2P and grateful for their support that she decided to become a volunteer. And she has big ideas and has not waited to start working on them. She has partnered with Joanna Jackson-Turner (former spotlight...) to build resources in Southwest Georgia for parents of children with special needs. As a first step, they set up a Facebook page called P2P Navigator Team SWGA. So far it has 203 members including parents and professionals who are actively involved in their community. She has also done some legislative advocacy, meeting with a Georgia State Senator to build awareness of the special needs community in Southwest Georgia. Her long-term goal is to build a community center for families impacted by disabilities and special health care needs in Albany.