

# T H E L E G A C Y

## mission

*"To build a noble legacy of fatherhood - improving the life chances of children by assisting young fathers in achieving self-sufficiency and in strengthening parental involvement."*

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## Winter 2011

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## Center Expanding Healthy Relationship / Marriage Program

Fathers and Families Center is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$1,780,000 grant to expand our healthy relationship / marriage program "It Takes Two!"



The awarded funds will allow the Center to offer additional services to a wider range of Indianapolis parents by eliminating past

restrictions on funding which limited eligibility based on marital status and children's age. The project, entitled Strengthening Families: Linking Healthy Relationships and Strong Fathers, includes three components; healthy marriage, personal advancement, and career advancement. The project will serve 750 participants annually, 100 couples using the evidenced-based Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP)/Within Our Reach curriculum, and 550 single parents or expectant parents using PREP/Within My Reach. This curriculum was designed for use with the economically-disadvantaged population the Center serves. The PREP curriculum has been proven to improve communication quality, conflict management,

relationship confidence, positive connection, father involvement, parenting, child outcomes, and reduce the risks of breakup or divorce.

The most recent Indiana Youth Institute's KIDS COUNT data demonstrates an increasing fragility of Marion County families. The percentage of Marion County children under age 18 living in poverty increased 6.7% between 2005 and 2009, to 28.4%; children born to unwed single parents increased 7.1% to 56.2% of all live births; children born to single mothers under age 20 without a high school diploma increased to 10.5% of all live births; families receiving food stamp assistance Women Infant Child assistance increased 21.4% and 31.1%, respectively;

termination of parental rights case filings increased 64.8%; children served in domestic violence emergency shelters increased 37.5%; and substantiated child neglect cases increased an astonishing 117.1%. All of this data demonstrates the alarming risks facing Marion County's children – which can be reduced through healthy relationships/marriages, strong fathers, and parental economic stability.



**Participant and his family attend the Children's Museum's Neighborhood Holiday Celebration**

## Family Night at the Children's Museum

Program participants and their families from both Fathers and Families Center locations were invited to the Neighborhood Holiday Celebration at the Children's Museum on December 6. The event provided a fun and safe learning environment for fathers to bond with their children. Dinner was provided and gift bags were given to all children in attendance. Program participant, Derrell McElwain stated *"It was a fun and exciting way to spend time with my family and fellow participants."* A special thanks to the Children's Museum, museum Director of Community Initiative, Anthony Bridgeman, and InfoZone Librarian, Joan Emmert, for your kindness and generosity.

## Center Hosts On-site Interviews



**The Center's Workforce Development Program facilitates on-site interviews for participants in search of employment.**

With the holiday season upon us, many parents are finding it difficult to make ends meet due to lack of employment or under-employment. Fathers and Families Center, along with several local employers and the assistance of Ms. Nicci Barksdale, WorkOne's Mobile Team, have made the job hunt a little easier by offering on-site job interviews for program graduates at both agency locations. The convenience of conducting interviews at Fathers and Families Center has proven to be a great resource for our participants, many of whom lack steady transportation to and from traditional job interviews. During on-site interviews, many participants are hired for positions or scheduled for second interviews. Those who are not hired gain valuable interviewing practice. The Center's Workforce Development Manager, LaNita Nixon, currently works with more than 65 Indianapolis companies to find employment opportunities for more than 6,000 program graduates.

### Donations Needed

- Men's dress clothes
- Men's belts, shoes, and ties
- Diapers, car seats, and cribs
- Monetary donations

Help us build a noble legacy of fatherhood by making a donation to Fathers and Families Center. Call 921-5943 for information on making a donations or volunteer opportunities.

## Workforce Development



**Manager of Annual Giving and Special Projects Rodric Reid assists program participants in completing job applications.**

Fathers and Families Center's Workforce Development Program addresses every facet of employment from obtaining a job to long-term job retention. Nearly all of the young fathers who walk through our doors in search of assistance are in desperate need of employ-



**Registrar Larmar Cox assists a participant in filling out a resume.**

ment skills. Most of our participants have never had a resume and lack the social skills necessary for many types of employment. Staff members work diligently with participants to help them develop the skills necessary for most types of professional employment. Through the use of mock interviews, resume building workshops, and by providing an example of professionalism, staff members are able to convey the qualities hiring managers are looking for, and eliminate barriers preventing many young fathers from finding and retaining employment.

### NAP Tax Credits Available!

Donate \$100 or more to Fathers and Families Center and reduce Indiana taxes due by half the amount you donate. Take advantage of this great opportunity. For more information on the availability of tax credits call our Grant Accountant Gordon Flick at 317-921-5945.

## Education Program



### GED Graduates pose at recognition ceremony.

Fathers and Families Center is making outstanding progress assisting young parents further their education. In 2011 the Center worked with 116 parents who tested for their GED. Of those 116, nearly 65% (75) passed the exam and obtained their GED on their first attempt. The remaining 35% are in various stages of retesting with more GED attainment expected before year's end. The Center's education program also assisted 63 individuals enroll in college or training programs in 2011.



Fathers and Families Center is now on Facebook. Friend us on Facebook for information on upcoming classes and events.



## Happy Holidays

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely

Thank You and Best Wishes  
for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

From the Board of Directors,  
Staff, and Participants

## Dad's Voice



### Fatherhood Services Specialist Michael Dix meets with Dad's Voice Program participants.

The Dad's Voice Program, a partnership between Fathers and Families Center and the Marion County Department of Child Services continues to provide a valuable resource for fathers with children involved in the child welfare system. As one of two contracted service



### Dad's Voice Participant attends December meeting with daughter

providers for father engagement in Marion County, the largest DCS region in the state, we have engaged hundreds of fathers in the process of working with the Marion County Juvenile Courts and Department of Child Services toward best outcomes for children. Fatherhood Services Specialist Mike Dix works on-site at the Marion County DCS office to assist young fathers whose children were removed from the home. In addition to the parenting, employment, and education services provided through the Fatherhood Development Workshop, Dad's Voice participants are informed of their parental rights, and made aware of resources available to help them navigate the child welfare system. Dad's Voice has served more than 75 men since July 2011. ***"It is my belief that our success to date lies in Fathers and Families Center's ability to provide a particular expertise in working with fathers of all backgrounds. I look forward to the continued growth of Dad's Voice and opportunities to serve families in crisis."*** – Michael Dix. For more information about the Dad's Voice Program, call Michael Dix at 317-607-7170.

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## 2011 Fathers and Families Center Staff

### Management:

Wallace McLaughlin, President/CEO  
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Terrence Harper, Family Support Services Manager  
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### Staff:

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