

# 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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## Summer 2011

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**In order from left to right: Mayor Greg Ballard, Robert Ripperger, Fathers and Families Center COO; Wallace McLaughlin, Fathers and Families Center President / CEO; Benjamin Hunter, City-County Councilman; Dr. Frank Straub, Director of Public Safety**

We are pleased to announce that Fathers and Families Center was among 26 Indianapolis not-for-profit agencies that received funding through the City of Indianapolis 2011 Crime Prevention Grant. The Center was awarded \$95,000 to further efforts in assisting young

fathers who are ex-offenders to become involved parents and providers for their children. Inability to provide for one's family is often the root cause of many crimes. The \$95,000 awarded to Fathers and Families Center will have a significant impact on our community by furthering our ability to provide more education and job readiness training to young fathers, giving them the means to seek more sustainable sources of income while helping to reduce crime in our community.



**Vice President and Branch Manager of PNC Bank, Aretha Johnson presents Fathers and Families Center President / CEO Wallace McLaughlin and Board Chair Kip Tew with the deed to the Illinois Street facility.**

One of the highlights of this year's Faces of Fatherhood Luncheon was the transfer of the deed to the agency's 2835 North Illinois Street location from PNC Bank to Fathers and Families Center. The Center was able to pay the mortgage

balance in only seven years with help from Health and Hospital Corporation and private donors.

The Illinois Street location has been the Center's main location since moving from Wishard Hospital in 2003. By moving to the larger facility, the Center has been able to provide services to more young parents by increasing class sizes. By eliminating monthly mortgage payments for the Illinois Street property, we are now able to commit more funds to maintaining the Center's 38th and Mitthoefer location which opened in 2009 due to an enormous need for greater capacity and crime prevention in that part of the community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and participants of Fathers and Families Center, thank you, Health and Hospital Corporation, and all the private donors that helped make this wonderful achievement possible. Together we can build a noble legacy of fatherhood and create brighter futures for children in our community.

## Center Receives City's 2011 Crime Prevention Grant

## 5th Annual Employer Appreciation Reception



LaNita Nixon, Workforce Development Manager and Rodric Reid, Manager, Annual Giving and Special Projects, pose with Fathers and Families Center graduates Keith McNeil, Quincy Sweeny, and Victor Evans at the Fifth Annual Employer Reception

Fathers and Families Center once again honored Indianapolis companies for providing program graduates with employment opportunities at our Fifth Annual Employer Appreciation Reception. The event was hosted by Zink Distributing Company at their 3150 Shelby Street facility on April 26.

Several program graduates who obtained full-time employment through Fathers and Families Center's Workforce Development programming spoke of the difficulties they faced finding employment, and thanked representatives from twenty-five companies in attendance for giving fathers the chance to support themselves and their families. Guest speaker John Woodall, Jr., Human Resources Recruiter Indiana District, UPS, gave a powerful speech about the hope young fathers have for job placement and career advancement.

Employment preparation is a major component of the Fathers and Families Center's curriculum, but without companies willing to hire program graduates, there is little chance of their becoming self-supporting wage earners and providers of child support. Many of the young fathers we serve have criminal histories which make them among the most difficult to employ. The companies honored at this year's ceremony have shown a sincere desire to strengthen families and the Indianapolis community by giving these men a second chance at a productive life.

My father didn't teach me fatherhood. Fathers and Families Center showed me the path. It's up to me to take the first steps.

- David Gale, Fatherhood Workshop Graduate

## Apollo 13 Re-Entry Program



Robert Mays, Fathers and Families Center employee in charge of the Apollo 13 Program, discusses employment opportunities with program participants William Redmon, Jerry Clay, and George Rice.

Fathers and Families Center is proud to be one of three Indianapolis agencies partnered with EmployIndy to provide Apollo 13 ex-offender re-entry services. Apollo 13 offers ex-offenders, ages 18–29 years old, who have been released from incarceration within the last 60 days job readiness training and employment services. The program is designed to help ex-offenders reintegrate into the community by providing training, counseling, job placement assistance, and follow-up.

Rodric Reid and Robert Mays head the Apollo 13 program for Fathers and Families Center. Since the program was extended in January, the Center has provided services to 38 ex-offenders. Of those 38 men, 12 are now employed, 2 have obtained their GED, and 2 are enrolled in college.

*"The Apollo 13 Program taught me how to properly fill out job applications and interview for jobs. Fathers and Families Center was there for me when I needed them. The program has given me strength to never give up. The only thing that comes to a sleeper is a dream".*

- George Rice, Apollo 13 Participant

## Dad's Voice

The Dad's Voice program, a partnership between Fathers and Families Center and the Indiana and Marion County Departments of Child Services, is making a significant, positive impact in the lives of fathers struggling to navigate the child welfare system. The program focuses on critical elements in developing healthy relationships between fathers and their children, such as increasing visitation time, improving communication with the mothers of their children and, in some cases, seeking custody of their children. Fathers and Families Center has served more than 40 fathers since the program was introduced in January 2011. Fathers must be referred to the Dad's Voice program by a DCS case manager in order to be eligible for the program. For more information about Dad's Voice, call Michael Dix at 317-544-3880.

## Faces of Fatherhood Luncheon



President / CEO Dr. Wallace McLaughlin and Board Chair Kip Tew pose with Heart of a Father Award recipients; Vic King, Brian Wellington, and George Crawford. The fourth award recipient, Dr. Timothy Franson, was unavailable for the photo.

Fathers and Families Center honored four outstanding Indianapolis fathers at the Seventh Annual Faces of Fatherhood Luncheon. Congressman Andre Carson served as honorary chair for the event held at the Conrad Indianapolis on June 15. Nearly 300 attended to recognize four fathers who have shown extraordinary commitment to their children's development. These fathers provide an example of what it means to be an outstanding father in hopes of inspiring others to go the extra mile as a parent.

Award winners are nominated by United Way agencies and local community groups. This year's award winners were Dr. Timothy Franson, nominated by The Villages of Indiana, Inc.; Vic King, nominated by Goodwill of Central Indiana, Inc.; George Crawford, nominated by Kid's Voice of Indiana; and Keynote speaker, Brian Wellington, nominated by Fathers and Families Center.



Fathers and Families Center is very pleased to be a partner agency with Second Helpings. Second Helpings has provided thousands of meals to Center participants over the past eight years. These nutritious meals provide the strength for the young fathers we serve to meet the requirements of our programs and prepare themselves for a brighter future. Thank you, Second Helpings, for helping to build a noble legacy of fatherhood.

## Center Honors GED Graduates



Fathers and Families Center Recognition Ceremonies are held several times a year to honor the persistence and determination of the young parents who complete our programs. It is a chance for family and friends to celebrate with their loved ones and support them as they take an active role in improving their lives and the lives of their children. At the recognition ceremony, participants are recognized for receiving their GED, maintaining steady employment, or completing the "It Takes Two!" Program. These goals, while significant, are just a milestone on the difficult path to success. The encouragement and love received at the ceremony help our young parents to stay on the right path.

Since Fathers and Families Center began the Fatherhood Development Workshop nearly 18 years ago, more than 6,000 young fathers have received services. The Center has helped 550 parents obtain their GED, and thousands find and maintain employment. The workshop focuses on teaching vital parenting skills while addressing the educational and employment needs of young parents. We provide these parents with the tools they need to be there for their children physically, emotionally, and financially.

Fathers and Families Center's accomplishments are made possible by support from the community. The community recognizes our agency as a means to prevent father absenteeism which is directly related to many of the problems the plague our streets. As the community grows, so does the need for our services. It is our hope to continue serving the needs of young Indianapolis fathers; however, our success is limited by our resources. Visit our web site ([www.fatherresource.org](http://www.fatherresource.org)) to see how you can help us continue building a noble legacy of fatherhood.

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