Our Successes

**The Results Speak For Themselves**

*And they say a lot. Throughout South Carolina, fatherhood programs provide vital one-stop centers where men can advance their education, acquire life skills, achieve gainful employment, shoulder more responsibility and ultimately become better fathers. Father to Father Project, Inc., is a holistic program touching and strengthening all aspects of fatherhood for twelve years in the North Charleston community and surrounding areas. Father to Father Project’s various services include education, job readiness, men’s health education, legal education, parenting, spiritual development, referrals and job assistance, drug/alcohol education, and peer support. Thanks to these and other services, fathers are reconnecting with their children and that—the ultimate goal—speaks the loudest.*

*Learn more about our success from the testimonies of fathers and their families as well as by the data collected on program outcomes*

*OUR SUCCESSES – OUTCOMES*

*128 Fathers Enrolled in 2011*

*329 Children Impacted by Father Involvement in the Program*

*Much work goes into helping fathers set and attain goals. Program staff conduct weekly group sessions where information is shared and skills are developed. Education and information covers a wide range of topics to improve responsible fatherhood. Employment and Parenting encompass the vast majority of information and education.*

Spending time with their children is often a challenge:. Distance. Strained Relationships with the Mother. Lack of a father or father figure in their own lives to model the importance and value of spending time together. Feelings of being an inadequate father. All get in the way. The fatherhood program stresses the importance of fathers spending time with their children and work to help fathers overcome these barriers. Program often sponsor father-child activities where staff can reinforce parenting skills in a fun, safe and non-threatening environment. Fathers and children create new and happy memories at these events.

Lack of employment is a major barrier to responsible fatherhood. Fathers experience many barriers to employment from low-educational levels, limited marketable job skills, spotty work history, poor health, and lack of reliable transportation coupled with a highly competitive and sluggish job market. Overcoming these hurdles and gaining employment is quite an accomplishment for many of these fathers.

**Fathers paid $105,553 in child support**

Many fathers report a strained relationship with the other parent which often prevents him from spending time with his child. Mothers and Fathers who lack communication skills and who have hurt and angry feelings often can not work together to co-parent their child in spite of the status of their relationship. Fatherhood program staff help teach communication skills, address anger management, provide mediation and help develop co-parenting skills. Even fathers who did not report a hostile relationship with the mother also improved upon an already workable relationship.

**JOBS NOT JAIL**

**82 FAthers enrolled**

**Paid $81,474 in child support**

**saved taxpayers $608,000 in incarceration costs.**

**Responsible Fatherhood and CUMMULATIVE Results**

Fathering is a privilege, right, and responsibility. From 2003 - 2010, our program has helped 1,209 men step up to being responsible fathers with the potential to affect 2,816 children.

• Of the 490 unemployed fathers, 300 gained employment.

• In total, 744 of the fathers were employed. 114 got a better paying job or increased earnings in their existing job.

• 625 received job readiness education and job skills training.

• The program provided transportation to 173 fathers.

• 596 fathers reported a somewhat hostile to no relation with the other parent, 292 improved their other-parent relationship.

• 819 received parenting education.

• 694 fathers reported not seeing their child at all or only a few times per year. Overall, 471 of the participating fathers reported increased contact with their child.

**Alternative To Incarceration**

Besides serving participating fathers, the program provides an Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) for fathers slow to pay child support. Low-income fathers often fall behind in child support—not because they won’t pay—but because layoffs, inclement weather, seasonal work cessation, illness or injury on the job, unreliable transportation, and other problems end their income. These fathers are not deadbeats; they are dead broke. With ATI, a judge can order a father facing incarceration to participate in a fatherhood program instead. Rather than sitting in a jail cell, fathers, with program counseling, can address employment issues and better meet their financial obligations. The ATI program requires the father to consistently pay child support and participate in the entire program in lieu of jail. The program’s fatherhood support saves taxpayer dollars and reduces overcrowding in county detention centers where violent offenders belong.

Father to Father Project has served 246 court-ordered fathers since 2006. These fathers, on average, would have cost the state more than $1.8 million if incarcerated for six months, the average non-payment sentence. Instead, they completed the fatherhood program, paid $286,785 in child support and arrears and spent time with their children - better results at a fraction of the cost.

**Testimonials**

Deltavis Wallace or “Tavis” as his friends call him voluntarily enrolled in the Father to Father program in November of 2005.  At the time of his enrollment he was actively using drugs and alcohol. Although he came from a sound family background, he succumbed to the temptations of the streets and pursued a life of easy money and quick highs.

Tavis has a GED and is the father of five children by four different women. He does not work because of a physical disability. He came to the program simply to ask for help. He said that he realized the street life that he was living was not good for him or his children. He was simply “tired of living that life.”

Tavis became actively involved in his church and the Father to Father program. The only time he missed a meeting was to attend a church function. He freely admits that he lived a life of drugs and alcohol but with the help of the Father to Father Project, Inc. and his decision to give his life to Jesus Christ, he has conquered all of those addictions and now all of his focus is on being a better man, a better father and a better Christian.

When Tavis enrolled in the program, he scored 19 on the Barksdale Self-esteem Scale.  A score of 50 or less indicates a “crippling lack of self-esteem." Prior to graduation from the program, Tavis took the Barksdale Self-esteem Test again and his score was 88.

Tavis truly is a changed man. He gives the credit to his relationship with Christ and feels that God definitely touched him through the Father to Father Project.

Our Success – Alumni

Father-to-Father is set to launch its new Alumni Association to provide on-going education to fathers who have graduated, and opportunities for graduates to provide mentoring to enrolled fathers. Stay in touch for more information to come.

Our Successes – Graduation

Celebrating completion from the program is always a time of pride, laughter and tears of joy and gratitude from fathers and families. Enjoy our photos from previous graduations.