Fanned the Fatherhood FIRE:
A National Fatherhood Summit
June 4-6, 2019 | Nashville, Tennessee

W16
Fired Up and Ready to Go!
Fathers Leading Positive Community Change

Presenters:

Guy Bowling, Director,
Goodwill Easter Seals FATHER Project,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Damian Winfield, FATHER Project Graduate,
Goodwill Easter Seals,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Michael Russell, FATHER Project Graduate,
Goodwill Easter Seals,
Minneapolis, Minnesota
FATHER Project Mission Statement:

“Empowering fathers to overcome barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally”

FATHER PROJECT

a program of GOODWILL-EASTER SEALS MINNESOTA
Our Services:

PARENTING SUPPORT
You’ll learn practical parenting skills and receive support from other peer fathers in similar circumstances.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
Hennepin County Child Support provides staff on-site at the FATHER Project. From paternity to payment issues, we help you understand and improve your situation.

GED SERVICES
We provide intensive GED support and other educational services.

LEGAL SERVICES
Central Minnesota Legal Services partners with us to provide family and civil legal services, including visitation rights, custody and child support.

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SERVICES
We offer comprehensive employment services, including:
- Job search support and résumé development
- Job skills evaluation and short-term training
- Job placement support

FATHER/CHILD ACTIVITIES
Recognition Dinner, Pumpkin Carving, Father’s Day Picnic and Festival of Fathers & Families Celebration

Good fathers make great kids.
The FATHER Project

Additional services offered (may vary by site)

• Early Childhood Services
• Intensive Case Management

• Leadership Tracks:
  • Mentoring
  • Parenting Group Facilitation Training
  • Citizen Father Project
History of Leadership Development at the Father Project:
Leadership Track Background

• Self development and program engagement
• Progressive completion of program goals
• Fostering and developing opportunities to “give back” at deeper levels
• Progress, not perfection is required
• Desire to help others and continue to receive ongoing support, part of becoming a leader
Develop Leaders & Engage Alumni
Citizen Father Project: History and Background

- Citizen Professional Center at the University of Minnesota (Bill Doherty)
- **Families and Democracy Model:** Community Action on a specific community issue
- Flattening the hierarchy: Professionals and community members each bring skills, abilities, and knowledge
- Action-oriented approach
Citizen Father Project:
How our project developed

• Families and Democracy Model: Core Principles

• Families and Democracy: Process

• Our planning process and activities

• Our progress and impact: Volunteer hours and presentations made, impact on partners
Citizen Father Project:
Community Action Project

- **Our projects:** Community Action and Video Documentary
- **Audiences:** How we chose our key audiences
- **Our approach to presentations:** How we structure presentations (self introduction / messages ➔ personal / public issue)
- **CFP in action:** Video Clip examples on Vimeo and YouTube
Citizen Father Project: Discussion

• Benefits to partnering agencies / organizations
• Contribution to fatherhood field
• Program participation / engagement of participants / benefits to participants
• Other leadership work they are already doing (similarities, differences, pros/cons, challenges, etc.)
• Expansion- Park Rapids Citizen FATHER Project
Questions and Answers?
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Stay in touch with us!

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