NRFC Webinar Series
August 2012 Webinar

August 23, 2012  12:30 – 2:00 pm (EDT)
Fatherhood Buzz - Back to School Initiative: Effective Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement in Schools

Moderator:
• Dennis Bega, Acting National Director of Regional Operations, Office of Communications and Outreach, US Department of Education

Presenters:
• J. Michael Hall, Strong Fathers - Strong Families
• Betsy Landers, National PTA®
• Philip Jackson, The Black Star Project
The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/Federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.

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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

• Our goals are to provide, facilitate, and disseminate current research, proven and innovative strategies that will encourage and strengthen fathers and families, and providers of services via the following priorities:
  – Social media engagement

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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

NRFC Priorities Continued:

– Development and dissemination of written products that highlight responsible fatherhood research and advance the practice agenda nationally

– Outreach, training, and presentations at conferences and events

– National Call Center for Dads and Practitioners (1-877-4DAD411)
National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- Virtual Trainings (like today’s Webinar)
- Annual Media Campaign that will promote Fatherhood Involvement nationally and on local levels

Fatherhood Buzz

Public Service Announcements

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How To Ask A Question

1. Click on Q&A
2. Type your question in the top box
3. Click on “Ask” to submit your question to the moderator

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Technical Issues

• Screen too small? Hit F5
• Want to ask a question? Hit F5 or Esc to bring you back to the original view to type in your question
• Interested in slides? If you did not receive the Presentation in PDF format prior to the Webinar email: info@fatherhood.gov
Webinar Goals

After this training webinar, participants will improve their knowledge and understanding of:

• The impact of father involvement in schools.
• Strategies that fatherhood practitioners can use to engage with local schools and school districts in order to increase father involvement in schools and improve outcomes for children.
• Resources and tips for fathers to help them increase their involvement in schools and their children's education.

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Speakers for this Webinar:

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"We often talk about parents being partners in education. When we say that, we're usually talking about the healthy and productive relationships that can develop between the adults in a child's life at home and the adults who work with that child at school. I can't overstate how important this partnership is."
Needed: Fathers, Dads, Uncles, Grandfathers, Men of Community Character

Chicago – June, 2012 – Over 300 Men

Atlanta – September, 2012 – Expected attendance of 500 Men

StrongDad?  

J. Michael Hall, M.Ed.  
President and Founder  
Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC  
www.StrongFathers.com  

StrongDog
Entering our 10th Academic Year
Face to Face with Over 110,000 fathers

Public Schools    Head Starts

Urban       Suburban       Rural        THE STICKS

Grassroots     Strength Based      Child Outcome Focused

www.StrongFathers.com    mikehall@strongfathers.com

(817) 301-4086

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DAD AND KID SCIENCE NIGHT
BRING YOUR DAD TO SCHOOL DAY
DAD AND KID MATH NIGHT
DAD AND KID READING NIGHT

Staff Training
Curriculum Development
Consultation
Pilot Programs

www.StrongFathers.com  mikehall@strongfathers.com  (817) 301-4086

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Strong Fathers programs are:

- Child Focused
- Academic Based
- Interactive
- Bilingual (Tri-lingual?)
- Portable and Replicable
- Simple (junk drawer based & instantly successful)
- 3 to 5 father-specific programs per year
A. Programs are unapologetically FOR FATHERS.

1. Everyone is welcome but Fathers are invited
2. Men do Matter but DADS matter to kids

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B. Programs are ALWAYS for Dads AND Kids

1. It is about the kids.....

2. Interactive, Relational, Relevant

3. Kids get the Dads to the program

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C. Give plenty of NOTICE and REMINDERS

1. Save the Date (annual, one month out)
2. Personalized Invitation
3. Reminders and advertisements
D. REACH OUT to your fathers and families

1. Other children are always welcomed (big and small)

2. BOTH languages (locally and culturally appropriate)
   a. side by side or “front and back”
   b. get local help and feedback
   c. mind your p’s and q’s

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D. REACH OUT to your fathers and families

3. FUN over FUNction
   a. Connection
   b. Chaos
   c. Content

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Keys to Making Father Engagement Work at Your School

FOCUS on the child and child outcomes

DO NOT Overthink It-Fathers are simple to work with and willing

EXPECT the dads to show up to simple, appropriate programs

WELCOME everybody-FOCUS on FATHERS (stick to message)
Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC

J. Michael Hall, M.Ed.
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Leading Male Engagement

Betsy Landers, National PTA President
National PTA
1250 N. Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
PTA.org
Leading Male Engagement
How PTA champions male engagement...

- PTA M.O.R.E., founded by National PTA
- National PTA Male Engagement Committee
- Annual National PTA Male Engagement Summit
- Annual National PTA MP3 – Male Participation Award

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By the Numbers
When males are not engaged...

- Children are **2 times more likely** to drop out of school.
- Students are **2 times more likely** to repeat a grade in school.
- Only **35.2%** of students with fathers absent from the household report getting mostly A’s through 12th grade.

SOURCE: http://www.fatherhood.org/media/consequences-of-father-absence-statistics
Role modeling
• Making appropriate choices
• Improved problem-solving abilities
• Providing financial support
• Providing emotional support
• Improved student performance

Engaging Men

Quick tips...

• Use specific messaging for men.
• Just ask them!
• Create special events for Dads, Uncles, Grandpas...
• Give it to ‘em straight... “We need you!”
• Seek to engage male community members.
• Recognize and celebrate male involvement.

Visit [http://www.pta.org/pta_more.asp](http://www.pta.org/pta_more.asp) for more tips.
Our Commitment
Engaging and empowering men...

• Welcoming all males
• Increasing male membership in PTA
• Training to provide strategies for increased male engagement
• Creating strategic partnerships

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Need More Information?

Contact us...

(800) 307-4PTA (4782)
info@pta.org
PTA.org
The Million Father March

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The **Million Father March** is fathers and men accompanying their children to school on the first day of the school year. These fathers become an honor guard of strong, positive men supporting all children at that school.

The **Million Father March** is the beginning of a year-long commitment of men to children educationally, socially, financially, emotionally and spiritually.
History of the *Million Father March*

- Ten men started the *Million Father March* in 2004 at St. Paul and the Redeemer’s Church basement on the South Side of Chicago.

- Combined two ideas:
  1. *Million Man March*
  2. Fathers in South America

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# History of the Million Father March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Cities</th>
<th>Men &amp; Fathers Participating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<td>580,000</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Million Father March 2012

In 2011, the March exceeded its national first-day participation objective when it reached the estimated 1 million father mark, with 767 cities in action.
Million Father March 2012

• While The Black Star Project recruits organizations nationwide and supports local organizing efforts across the country with toolkits and direct technical assistance, we also network, highlight and share organizations’ creative strategic approaches with organizers everywhere.

• And local groups in more than 767 cities manage their own on-the-ground first-day events while we coordinate the Chicago campaign.

• In this way, The Black Star Project concentrates its efforts on empowering those with the most at stake to be in effective action.
Participants in the event include fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, stepfathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers, significant male caregivers and friends of the family.

Men and women of all ethnicities are encouraged to take their children to school on their first day.

Businesses are asked to give fathers and men 2 hours off that morning to take their children to school.

Men are encouraged to volunteer at schools throughout the year.

A special effort will be made to coordinate Latino Fathers in La Marcha de los Padres.
Research Shows

1. Children whose fathers take an active role in their educational lives earn better grades, score higher on tests, enjoy school more and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.

2. Children have fewer behavior problems when fathers listen to and talk with them regularly and are active in their lives.

3. A good father is part of a good parent team and is critical to creating a strong family structure.

4. Strong family structures produce children who are more academically proficient, socially developed and self-assured. Such children become adults who are valuable assets to their communities.

5. Better parents produce better communities, better schools, and better students with higher academic achievements.
Million Father March
Participants Can Volunteer To:

Mentor children at the school.
Tutor children at the school.
Read to children during class.
Chaperone a field trip.
Monitor the lunchroom.
Monitor the hallway.

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More Volunteer Ideas

• Become a member of the Local Student Council, Parent Teacher Association, or School Board.
• Watch students before and after school to provide safe passage.
• Clean school facilities (wash chalkboards, sweep and mop floors, maintain the grounds, etc.).
• Coach sports teams.
• Help the teacher grade papers.

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Our motto is:
Any Man; Any School; Any Child!!
Be There!!

The Million Father March 2012
Questions & Contact Information

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General Inquiries  -
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Thank you!

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