



# 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



# National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- 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.
- NRFC Director: Kenneth Braswell, Sr.  
e-mail: [kenneth.braswell@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.braswell@gmail.com)
- NRFC Manager: Patrick J. Patterson  
e-mail: [patrick.patterson@icfi.com](mailto:patrick.patterson@icfi.com)



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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:
  - Robust NRFC Website – [www.Fatherhood.gov](http://www.Fatherhood.gov)
  - 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**)



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# 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*

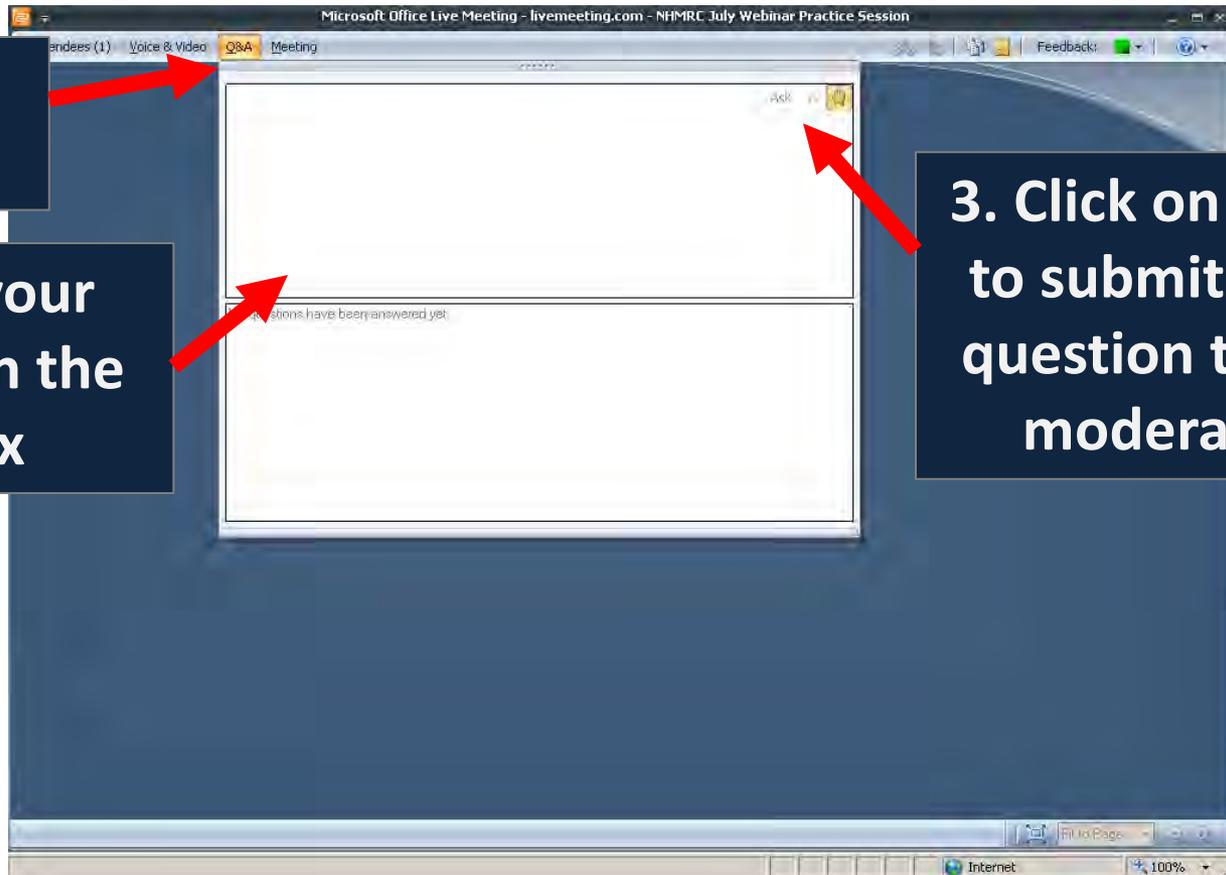


# How To Ask A Question

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**



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# 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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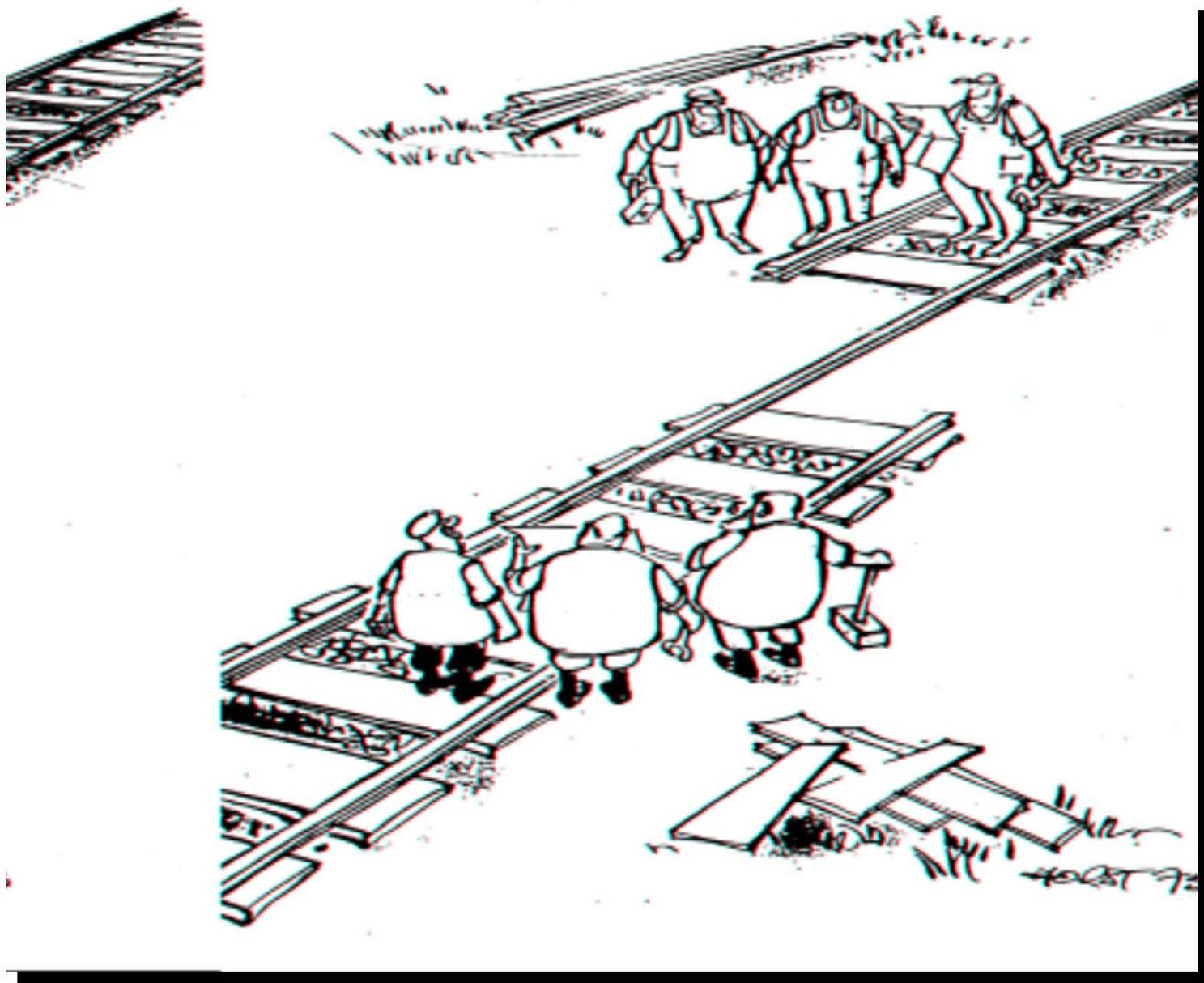




"We often talk about parents being partners in education. When we say that, we're usually talking about the healthy and productive relationships that can develop between the adults in a child's life at home and the adults who work with that child at school. I can't overstate how important this partnership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



LINCOLN SCHOOL  
KINDE RGARTEN  
MRS DIAMOND  
NOV 1956





[www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement](http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement).

**Needed: Fathers, Dads, Uncles, Grandfathers, Men of Community Character**

**Chicago – June, 2012 – Over 300 Men**

**Atlanta – September, 2012 – Expected attendance of 500 Men**

**StrongDad?**



**StrongDog**

**J. Michael Hall, M.Ed.**

President and Founder

Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC

[www.StrongFathers.com](http://www.StrongFathers.com)





**STRONG FATHERS**  
**Strong Families**



# 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](http://www.StrongFathers.com)

[mikehall@strongfathers.com](mailto:mikehall@strongfathers.com)

(817) 301-4086



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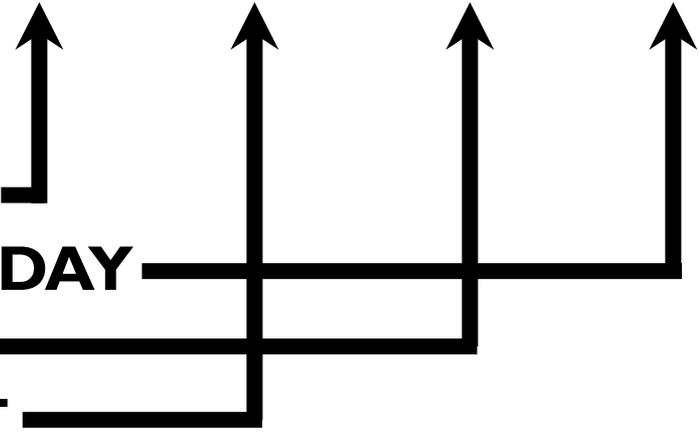




# STRONG FATHERS Strong Families



**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](http://www.StrongFathers.com)

[mikehall@strongfathers.com](mailto:mikehall@strongfathers.com)

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**STRONG FATHERS**  
**Strong Families**



# 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

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**STRONG FATHERS**  
**Strong Families**



## **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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**STRONG FATHERS**  
**Strong Families**



## **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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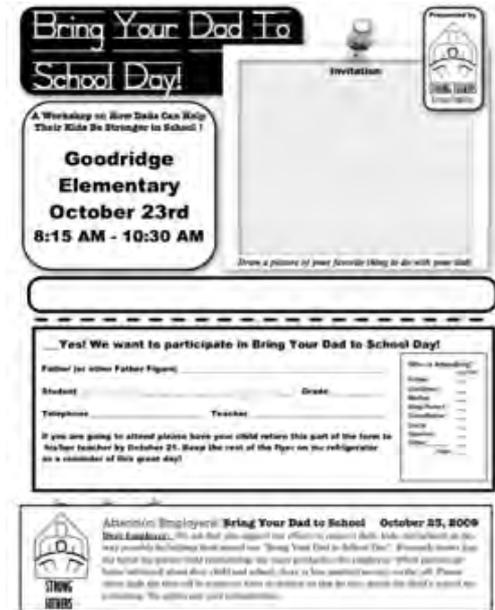


# STRONG FATHERS Strong Families



## C. Give plenty of NOTICE and REMINDERS

1. Save the Date (annual, one month out)
2. Personalized Invitation
3. Reminders and advertisements



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# STRONG FATHERS Strong Families



## 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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# STRONG FATHERS Strong Families



## D. REACH OUT to your fathers and families

### 3. FUN over FUNction

- a. Connection
- b. Chaos
- c. Content

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**STRONG FATHERS**  
**Strong Families**



## 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)

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# STRONG FATHERS Strong Families



## Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC

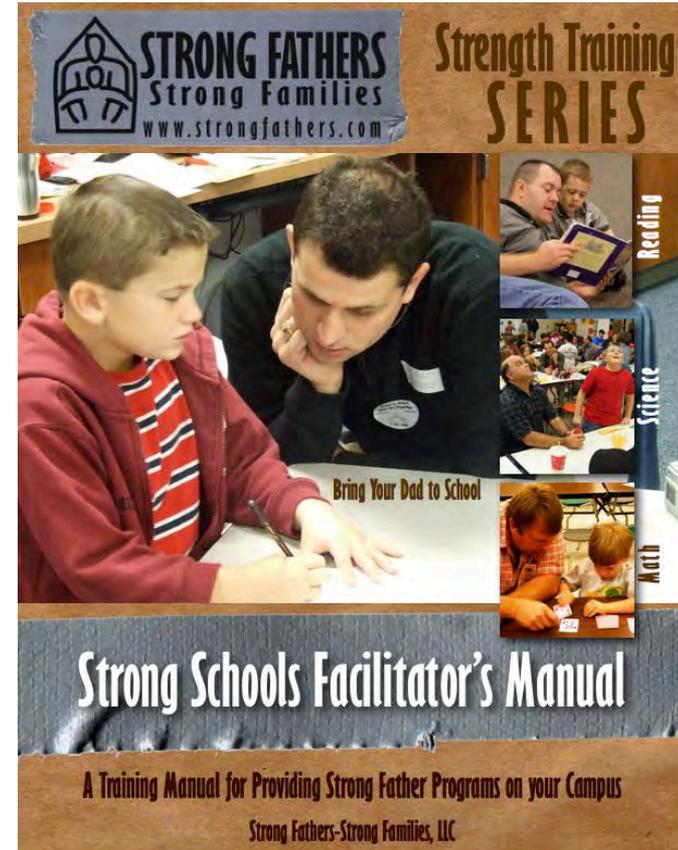
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**National**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

# 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**



# 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade

SOURCE: <http://www.fatherhood.org/media/consequences-of-father-absence-statistics>

# Importance of Male Engagement

## The positive impact...

- **Role modeling**
- **Making appropriate choices**
- **Improved problem-solving abilities**
- **Providing financial support**
- **Providing emotional support**
- **Improved student performance**

SOURCE: [www.2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/calltocommit/chap1.html](http://www.2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/calltocommit/chap1.html)

# 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**

# Need More Information?

Contact us...

**(800) 307-4PTA (4782)**

**info@pta.org**

**PTA.org**



# The Million Father March

Phillip Jackson

The Black Star Project

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[www.blackstarproject.org](http://www.blackstarproject.org)

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# *The Million Father March*

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# The *Million Father March*

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.



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# 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*



Year	Number of Cities	Men & Fathers Participating
2004	25	40,000
2005	83	150,000
2006	127	250,000
2007	235	400,000
2008	475	600,000
2009	487	580,000
2010	609	800,000
2011	767	1,050,000



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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.



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# *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.



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# Million Father March 2012

- 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*.



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# 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.



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# *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*



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# Questions & Contact Information

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## Facebook

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## Twitter

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## General Inquiries -

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*Thank you!*

## NRFC Webinar Series – August 2012

### Fatherhood Buzz - Back to School Initiative: Effective Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement in Schools

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