

Fatherhood

Actions to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

May 1, 2000

Child Support Trust Fund/Account

Child support paid for a child while on welfare would go into a trust fund that would be available – either in a lump sum or monthly payments—once the custodial parent left welfare. This would provide an innovative new mechanism to encourage fathers to pay child support for their children even while on welfare, create an incentive for mothers to leave welfare, and provide additional income during the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. Like child support pass through, the trust funds would ensure that support paid by the father goes directly to his family, thereby creating an incentive for the mother to cooperate with child support and the father to pay, but this approach is simpler and removes incentives to stay on welfare. There are several options for implementing this approach: a) the Administration could provide guidance to states on how they could implement it with existing TANF funds, b) the Administration could implement a pilot funded with child support demonstration funds, c) the Administration could announce that this idea should be considered for nationwide implementation as part of TANF reauthorization, or d) current child support legislative proposals could be amended to include this option [may need to identify new pay-for implications].

Release Child Support Accomplishments report and new data

Could release report summarizing Administration accomplishments on child support, along with latest data including FY 99 state-by-state numbers; latest financial institution data match hits; new hire hits; passport denials. Final national numbers will likely be slightly higher than the preliminary number of \$15.5 we've been using. Could also highlight role of businesses [and maybe call on employers to do even more?].

Encourage more State investments in promoting responsible fatherhood

We could develop information on how much (or little) states are investing their TANF funds in responsible fatherhood activities, and exhort them to do more by investing available TANF funds in these efforts. Little data is currently available and this would require surveying states. We may be able to convince a private organization to conduct the survey (perhaps a foundation could fund a think-tank or one of the state organizations).

Encourage judges to make greater use of non-custodial parent employment programs

We could work with HHS and DOJ to commission a guide for judges on how to use non-custodial parent employment programs to help deadbroke dads go to work and pay child support. Where these have been implemented (Tampa, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, etc) they are producing promising results and judges are enthusiastic. We could also find ways to disseminate information about these models at judicial conferences, or hold a conference specifically on this topic. Guide should include information on how states are implementing the current child support work requirement for NCPs with children on welfare, and highlight our proposal to expand to all NCPs.

Food Stamp Employment & Training Funds

Direct USDA to provide guidance to states on how they could use FS E&T funds to serve non-

custodial parents. We're currently gathering information on whether any states are doing this.

Fathers Matter – Deliverables from HHS/ED Initiative on Involving Fathers in Schools and Early Learning

Could release the following deliverables being produced by HHS and Education:

- Effective Practices Guide for educators, head start providers, and other practitioners. Will include special focus on involving non-custodial parents, as well as fathers who are living with their children.
- Tips for Dads – practical things dads can do to get more involved
- Training materials
- CD Rom to include these deliverables plus research information.

HHS will know by mid-May when these might be available; some pieces may be ready for a fathers day release.

Voluntary paternity establishment

HHS has sent out a video to be used at hospitals, and is now sending to Head Start centers as well. We could direct them to send out the video and other informational materials to a wide array of federally-funded family services programs such as child care centers, schools, health clinics, juvenile and adult correction facilities, courts. We could also direct them to partner with other non-federal entities to disseminate information to places likely to reach fathers who have not acknowledged paternity including sports organizations.

Provide TA for providers on how to work with deadbroke dads

There is evidence that despite a growing level of interest in serving this population, there is a need to build capacity and train staff in welfare, workforce, and child support offices. Some have pointed out that the Workforce Investment Act is an important untapped resources but there is a lack of knowledge/experience in dealing with the population (our Fathers Work/Families Win proposal would help build capacity in the WIA system). DOL is in the process of funding NPCL to do TA effort for WtW and WIA providers. We could explore other funding sources, including building it into the DOJ/DOL re-entry initiative to ensure these programs incorporate responsible fatherhood as part of their efforts.

Incarcerated Fathers

There are a growing number of initiatives around the country focusing on incarcerated fathers but, to date, federal involvement has been minimal. For example, the Mott Foundation will soon be funding a number of state and local projects and there is a large conference scheduled for September. [AK follow-up with DOJ – what is status of federally-funded research?]

HHS speeches (currently not planning any new announcements/deliverables)

- Kevin Thurm and Judge Ross speaking at International Fatherhood Conference in NYC May 30
- Kevin speaking at NFI's 3rd annual Fatherhood Summit, June 2nd in Washington (invite may have been extended to VP).

Require paternity establishment to get food stamps

Not currently required but problems appear to outweigh advantages. Two issues: 1) should a father who has a child living with him have to prove legal paternity and 2) should a father who is not living with his children and is applying as an ABAWD be asked if he has children, and if so, has he acknowledged paternity? This could send mixed messages in terms of promoting food stamp participation.

Require payment of child support as condition of getting food stamps

Under PRWORA, states may disqualify food stamp recipients who are in arrears on child support. USDA says only two states – OK and WI – have elected this option for non-public assistance cases. Ohio has a self-sufficiency contract which makes payment of child support a condition of receiving TANF. Failure to do so will also result in the individual who owes child support losing food stamps. While we don't yet have data on how common this, it is probably most likely to occur in the case of a two-parent TANF family where one parent owes child support to a former wife or girlfriend. USDA believes the reason so few states are doing this is because if the father is living alone, he's probably an ABAWD facing a three month time limit so it's not worth doing. If he's living with a new family, the sanction will reduce food stamps for the new family.

Unemployment Insurance Intercept

We already intercept child support from UI claimants [Eric – have you learned anything more about how this works or how much it generates? What's statutory basis?]

Child Support Demonstrations/Waivers

OCSE will be releasing Special Improvement Grants in late May/early June. These may include grants related to fathers in prison and involving the faith community. Also one related to bringing together women's groups and father groups.

Promising practices in Welfare-to-Work Non-Custodial Parent grants

HHS and DOL have added a component to the WtW evaluation contract with Mathematica to review and produce a report, including case studies, on 7 – 9 Non-Custodial Parent projects currently operating with WtW funds. Site selection is nearly finalized and includes an interesting range of projects (potential sites: Los Angeles, Milwaukee, DeKalb Co (GA), Houston, Yakima (WA), Oglala Lakota Tribal College (Pine Ridge), Minneapolis, Kansas City). Expect to be done in late summer.

Expand partnerships with faith community

OCSE checking on additional partnerships such as United Methodist Church.

FY 1999 Paternity Numbers – not likely to be positive

EITC

- Still exploring counting child support

- CBPP has proposed giving credit for non-custodial fathers who are paying child support

Explore Blair's initiatives:

Promoting two parent families, fatherhood and families coalition, marriage strengthening, TV shows.

Highlight new research findings

Several recent research reports confirm that child support can be an important tool in fighting poverty, but we need to do more to increase the potential of poor fathers to pay. For example:

- Child support reduces the number of poor children by a half million and reduces poverty among these children by about 5 percent (Sorensen)
- While too many children still do not receive support, it represents an important source of income for those who do – in 1996 (latest available data) children who had nonresident parents and whose families received child support received, on average, 16 percent of their family income from child support. And, the average amount of support received was \$3,795 (Sorensen).
- Child support is even more important for poor children. The average poor child with a nonresident parent and whose family received support received \$1,979 in 1996, which represents over one-quarter of their family income (26%). (Sorensen)

NICHD-funded Fragile Families Research

McLanahan/Garfinkel may soon be releasing release on 6 or 7 site data (while HHS funded, they don't control release). [AK to call].

Two Parents Fair Share Reports -- [AK call Ginger Knox to get advance copy and dates]

HHS has two reports on male involvement in teen pregnancy prevention under review. Plan to release as part of 3rd report to Congress on National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (need to get more information).

FATHERHOOD From: Andrea CC: CR BR



National Fatherhood Initiative

Fatherhood Today

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3 • FALL 99

NFI Partners with Pennsylvania in Fatherhood Promotion

NFI continued its march to take fatherhood promotion to every state capitol in the country as Governor Tom Ridge announced the creation of the Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative. On hand for the September 15 announcement was NFI Chairman Don Eberly. The Pennsylvania effort, which marks the latest effort in Governor Ridge's campaign to

"At the heart of all we do is the family. That is where our most important work lies... we can and we must break this cycle of father absence, reconnect kids with their dads, and save another generation of Pennsylvania's children."

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR TOM RIDGE SEPTEMBER 15, 1999. ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

revitalize fatherhood in the state, is a partnership with NFI.

The Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative will be charged with coordinating the efforts of all state agencies designed to promote responsible fatherhood. Governor Ridge, who has been an active member of the Governors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion - also a partnership with NFI - and serves as its founding co-chairman, announced that:

■ The Department of Public Welfare will add over \$1 million



Gov. Ridge at the announcement of the Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative. Seated to his left is Derrick Span, Director of the Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative.



to its Single Point of Contact Pregnant and Parenting Youth Program to provide services to 240 teen fathers; invest money to develop fatherhood programs and create 8 to 10 Family Centers around the state; and add almost \$1 million to the Education Leading to Employment and Career Training program to help teen fathers pursue their high school diploma and employment.

■ The Department of Education will award \$177,000 to non-profit community-based organizations to promote responsible fatherhood.

■ The Department of Health, in conjunction with NFI, will develop a program to teach chil-

dren and adolescents about the roles and responsibilities of fatherhood, as well as the financial, social and emotional costs, of becoming a father prior to marriage.

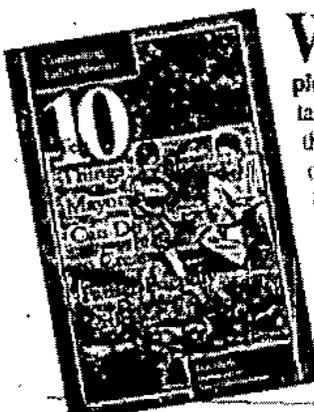
■ The Department of Corrections will organize programs designed to help fathers in prisons stay connected, or to reconnect, with their children.

■ Seed grants to community-based organizations will be provided by the Department of Community and Economic Development to develop and expand fatherhood promotion activities throughout the state.

- continued on page 2

Mayors Muster Muscle Against Missing Dads

NFI Announces Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion



When NFI holds a summit, people listen. That's certainly the case with the National Summit on Supporting Urban Fathers, convened by NFI this past June.

Attended by over 300 political and civic leaders, the summit was

convened to explore the dynamics of father absence in urban communities. While father absence is a nationwide problem, it disproportionately affects many urban communities, where illegitimacy rates can reach more than 70% and the percentage of children living without fathers can climb to well over 50%. As a direct result of the urban fatherhood summit, several influential mayors decided to join with NFI to create the bi-partisan Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion.

NFI is excited to announce that Mayors Stephen Goldsmith (R-Indianapolis) and John

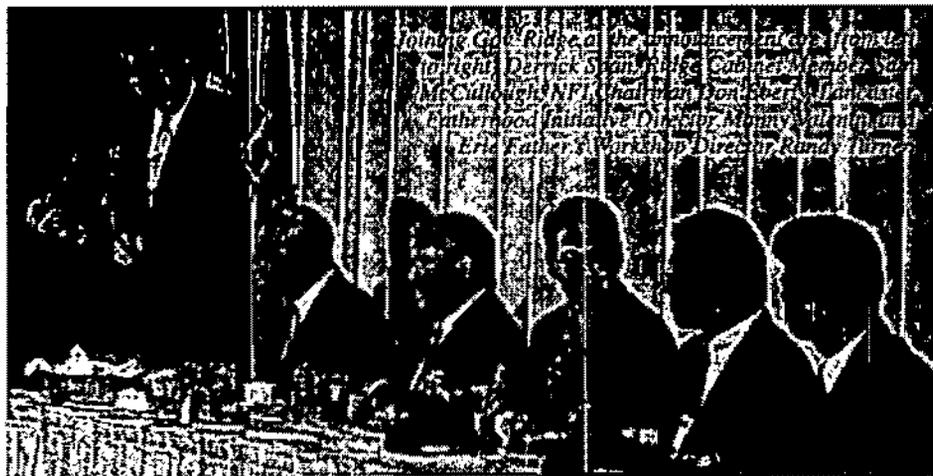
Norquist (D-Milwaukee) will serve as task force co-chairmen. As *Fatherhood Today* went to press, more than 50 mayors have joined the task force.

"Of all the core social problems confronting America's urban centers, the epidemic of father absence is by far the most socially consequential and fiscally costly problem a Mayor must confront," reads *Ten Things Mayors Can*

- continued on page 3

INSIDE...

- 2 Responsible Fatherhood Act
- 3 President's Desk
- 4-5 Father of the Year CASA Report
- 6-7 THE FORUM
- 8 LOCAL INITIATIVES
- 9 Ellen Galleski
- 10 Quotes and Correspondence
- 11 Speeches and Appearances



PA Paternal Promotion NFI will help the state implement a public education campaign highlighting the important role fathers play in their children's lives and will operate a toll-free hot-

line where Pennsylvanians can call to learn about fatherhood resources in their community.

The Ad Council and NFI will begin airing their media campaign throughout Pennsylvania later this fall.

Senators Introduce Responsible Fatherhood Act

If Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Pete Domenici (R-NM) have their way, Congress will soon add the force of the federal government to the fatherhood movement. This past July, the two legislators introduced the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999, a bill intended to increase public awareness about and community involvement in fatherhood promotion efforts, and to change the current Welfare-to-Work program to offer more support to low-income fathers.

The Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999 will:

- raise awareness about the importance of responsible fatherhood by authorizing a public awareness campaign, designed by states and communities, to help change attitudes, particularly among young men, about the responsibilities that go with fathering a child;
- establish a block grant to expand responsible fatherhood promotion programs at the state and local level; and
- change existing federal laws to encourage a stronger connection between fathers and their children through increased child support to families and more available training through the Welfare-to-Work program for low-income fathers.

If enacted by Congress, a national clearinghouse will also be established to facilitate the exchange of ideas and success stories on fatherhood issues. The clearinghouse will also



Senators Evan Bayh and Pete Domenici

produce and disseminate resources to those leading the charge at the community level. NFI has been highlighted as an exemplary group to house such a clearinghouse because of our vast collection of fatherhood materials and experience on the subject of fathers and fatherhood.

Bayh and Domenici, speaking at a Washington, D.C., press conference noted that, since NFI started over five years ago, approximately 2,000 local fatherhood programs have been formed. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), a co-sponsor of the bill, specifically pointed to NFI: "A shining example of this united effort is the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) which was formed to help raise awareness of the problem of father absence and its consequences and to mobilize a national response to it. To date, the NFI has made tremendous progress, working in communities across the country to set up educational programs and to promote responsible fatherhood."

NFI President Wade Horn was also present at the press conference at which he was asked to comment on the scope and consequences of fatherlessness.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Fatherhood Today (FT) is published quarterly by the National Fatherhood Initiative and serves the following mission:

- to inform the members and friends of NFI about the Initiative's activities and efforts;
- to monitor the fatherhood renewal movement in America by spotlighting local & national fatherhood efforts, and by focusing on national media attention of fatherhood;
- to highlight current research regarding the valuable contributions fathers make to the lives of their children and families;
- to provide a forum for the diverse range of opinions that exist on a number of issues within the fatherhood movement;
- to contribute to the fatherhood renewal movement by providing thoughtful analysis and commentary.

Views expressed in *Fatherhood Today* are not necessarily those of the staff, Board or Members of the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Editorial and Production Management:

Richard O. Weinert

Officers of the National Fatherhood Initiative:

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D.

President

Don E. Eberly

Chairman & CEO

GOVERNING BOARD

David Blankenhorn

James Cox

George Gallup

Robert Siedlecki, Jr., Esq.

John Segal

The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.

Roland Warren

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Eloke Anderson

William Bennett

Marilyn Benoit, M.D.

Errett T. Christmas

Dick DeVos

Guariseo Diaz

James Egan, M.D.

Amitai Etzioni, Ph.D.

Ora Fleher

Richard Harwood

James Earl Jones

Jeff Kemp

Michael E. Lamb, Ph.D.

Steve Largent

Stephen P. Lawson

Robert Lerman, Ph.D.

Josephine (Joey) Mora

Willard Scott

Michael Singletary

Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D.

Terry M. Wente, M.D.

T.J. Warren Young

Please direct all correspondence to:

Editor

Taking Account of the Fathers Count Legislation

BY WADE F. HORN, PH.D.
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

If ever there was a problem in need of a solution, it is fatherlessness. Tonight, nearly 4 out of every 10 children in the U.S. will go to bed in a home in which their biological father does not reside. Three out of 10 live in a home without any father at all. This is not good news for America's children.

Well, the federal government has started to take notice. As chronicled in this issue of *Fatherhood Today*, over the past several months, bi-partisan legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Pete Domenici (R-NM) and in the U.S. House of Representatives by Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Benjamin Cardin (D-MD). Both bills would provide funds for community-based organizations to develop and implement outreach, support, and skills building programs for fathers.

This sounds like good news — and it very well may be. But legislation must be carefully crafted to ensure that its goals are attained while minimizing the possibility of unintended negative consequences. Here are what I believe are the five most important criteria for judging whether or not any given legislation will ultimately prove effective in promoting responsible fatherhood.

I believe that with concerted effort we can actually reverse the trend toward fatherlessness within the next five years.

First, federal legislation must clearly promote married fatherhood as the ideal. All available evidence suggests that the most effective pathway to involved, committed and responsible fatherhood is marriage. This does not mean that local programs should restrict their efforts to working only with married fathers. We must, and should, work with unwed and divorced fathers to help them be an important part of their children's lives. We don't have a father to spare. But at the same time, we need to be clear that the best situation is for children to grow up with a real live, in the home, love the mother, married father. Federal legislation should support this goal.

Second, while recognizing the importance of child support enforcement, federal legislation must emphasize positive father engagement, not simply economic support. Since the 1950's, the fathers' role in public policy has been mostly about paternity establishment and child support enforcement. This is not, of course, without merit. Any man who fathers a child ought to be held financially responsible for that child. But federal and state government already spends many billions of dollars on child support enforcement. What is needed now is not more funds to enforce child support orders, but more resources to help fathers become engaged in positive ways in the lives of their children.

Third, federal legislation should be flexible, providing support for a range of fatherhood programs and initiatives. Fathers come in many varieties. What is helpful with one kind of father in one type of situation, may not be helpful with another kind of father in a different situation. While setting certain priorities, federal legislation should not hamstring local fatherhood programs by focusing assistance on only one type of father in one type of situation. Legislation should be particularly careful not to condition services on having fathered a child out-of-wedlock, for doing so would only serve to introduce perverse incentives for men to father children outside of marriage.

Fourth, federal legislation must encourage the involvement of faith-based efforts to promote responsible fatherhood. Over the past decade, faith-based fatherhood interventions have shown an extraordinary capacity to motivate men to be good husbands and fathers. Millions of men have attended Promise Keepers rallies. Tens of thousands of others have been involved with Dad: The Family Shepherd, Dad's University, and Legacy Builders. In recognition of the extraordinary power of faith to transform men's lives, federal legislation should provide support for faith-based fatherhood promotion activities as well as secular ones.

Fifth, federal legislation should encourage the development of community-wide initiatives, not merely individual programs. Fatherlessness is a big problem. Big problems



can not be solved with little solutions. While individual fatherhood support, outreach, and skill building programs will always be the backbone of efforts to motivate and equip men to be responsible fathers, they are, by themselves, insufficient to address today's crisis of fatherlessness.

Rather, what is needed is the mobilization of entire communities in which every sector of American society — both public and private — is enlisted to help address the issue of fatherlessness. This means that in addition to funding local fatherhood programs, legislation should also be designed to help mobilize the media, hospitals, schools, the philanthropic sector, existing social services, and the judicial system, to name but a few, to help combat the rising problem of fatherlessness. The fatherhood movement will surely fail if it becomes just another funding stream, competing with every other funding stream, for finite resources.

CONCLUSION

There exists today no greater single threat to the long-term well-being of children, our communities or our nation, than the increasing number of children being raised without a committed, responsible, and loving father. This tide will not be turned easily, and certainly not by changes in public policy alone. But public policy can have a significant effect upon how potential parents — both mothers and fathers — view marriage and parental responsibilities.

The good news is that we are starting to see, for the first time in over thirty years, a leveling off of the number of children growing up in father absent homes. I believe that with concerted effort we can actually reverse the trend toward fatherlessness within the next five years. Not simply stop the rise in fatherlessness, but reverse it. Public policy can help by encouraging more skilled fathering, more work, and more marriages.

A HOLLYWOOD LOVE STORY FOR FATHERLESS KIDS



West Coast Father of the Year Award Winner Lou Dantzler and his sons Corey and Mark.

Lou Dantzler Named NFI West Coast Father of the Year

He started with a pick-up truck. Recently, he was honored at the glitzy studio premiere of *The Story of Fathers and Sons* as NFI's West Coast Father of the Year. Lou Dantzler's story is one made for Hollywood, a story that's a blockbuster hit with fatherless children in California.

Dantzler is the founder, president, and chairman of the Challenger's Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Los Angeles, which currently serves more than 5,000 children per year at five locations. He certainly didn't start out that way. Indeed, he dabbled in janitorial services, sales, cutting hair, and photographing weddings. He ended up as a landscape contractor.

It was as a landscaper that he first noticed children desperately in need of a man's guidance — they seemed to seek him out no matter where he was toiling. Soon, he was taking neighborhood kids for rides in the back of his pick-up truck or to the local park for hot dogs and a soda, things he himself had missed out on

as a child! Quickly, he learned from these children that many had no father. They also needed a safe place to play and learn, where they could get the positive attention they weren't getting at home or school. Resolving to do all he could for these children, but with no money, he made the best of what he had: Soon, he was known throughout the neighborhood as the "pick-up truck recreation center."

Believing that he must do more for "his" children, Dantzler asked the owner of a local grocery store if he would make a donation, of any size, to his nascent program. He was skeptical, however, that any such donation would be forthcoming — the grocery store had a big "For Sale" sign in the front window. The store owner did not donate any money. He donated the store. Just like that, Dantzler had the facility he needed and could now put in place the programs he had been dreaming of. That was in the early 1970's.

With his first Challenger's center open, he organized a wide range of child and adolescent activities and programs that emphasized strong values, good citizenship, educational enrichment, and social skills development. From the start, he made parental involvement a key component of the center. He required that every parent of a child coming to the center spend a few hours each month volunteering. Challenger's centers were to be a partnership with — not a substitute for — the parents of participating children.

This past January, Challenger's Boys and Girls Club opened a sparkling new, 29,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that houses a teen center, a computer learning center, a science lab, and a radio/video broadcast center.

Dantzler doesn't pretend that he and his impressive program can take the place of a child's missing father. But for adding so much to the lives of children who otherwise would have so little, he certainly is the Father of the Year to countless kids in California.

For additional information, contact:
Challenger Boys & Girls Club, 5029 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90037.

New Study Finds Best Thing for Keeping Kids Off Drugs

You Won't Believe What It Is! (Well, maybe you will)

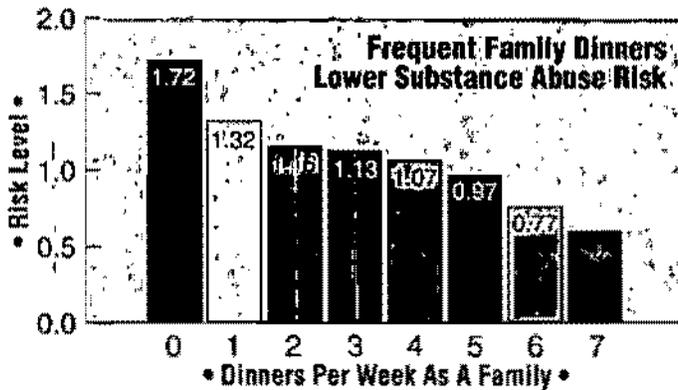
Researchers recently released the findings of a major new study on teenage drug abuse. With great excitement and fanfare they announced that they had found the one factor that can keep kids away from drugs, the best intervention yet discovered in the war on drugs. It is (drum roll please!)...Daddy.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University surveyed 1,000 teenage boys, 1,000 teenage girls, and 1,000 parents of teenage children (536 mothers and 464 fathers)

over a five-year period. Researchers measured "attitudes of teens and those who most influence them" in an attempt to isolate those factors that increase or decrease the likelihood that a teenager will use alcohol, drugs or tobacco. They particularly focused on family structure and the quality of relations between teenagers and their parents.

"The safest teens are those living in two-parent homes where they have a positive relationship with both parents," the study concluded. Family structure, especially the presence of a father, was found to be the single most important factor protecting kids from substance abuse:

- Teenagers raised in two-parent families have an abuse rate 7% lower than the average rate for all teens.
- Young people living in "thriving two-parent households" (living with and having a very good relationship with both parents) are the least likely to abuse alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
- Teenagers growing up in mother-only households have a substance abuse rate 21% above the average for all adolescents.



Attend Religious Services at Least 4 Times a Month	CASA Study on Religious Involvement	Attend Religious Services Less Than Once a Month
7%	Smoked in the Past Month	16%
9%	Drink in Typical Week	21%
56%	Will Never Use Any Drugs in the Future	15%
18%	Have Smoked Marijuana	25%

The study did find that it is possible for single mothers to counteract the negative effects of no father in the household by building a very strong relationship with their teenaged children. However, the researchers found that only 35% of teenagers living only with their mothers have such a relationship.

Referring to the study as a "wake up call" for America's fathers, CASA Chairman and President Joseph Califano also noted that family dinner time, in addition to being nutritious and an important time to catch up with each other, is a valuable drug abuse prevention factor. Teenagers who, on the average, don't eat dinner with their families have a substance abuse rate 2.5 times higher than that of teens who usually eat seven dinners per week with their families. The study also found that teenagers who attend religious services at least four times per month had significantly lower levels of substance abuse than teenagers who attended less than once a month.

So, it seems, the next time the government declares another "war on drugs," our political leaders better remember that America's dads are their secret weapon.

Graphs courtesy of The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, National Survey of American Attitudes of Substance Abuse V: Teens and Their Parents, © August 1999

Mayor's Task Force

cont. from page 1



Mayor John Norquist

Do to Create Father-Friendly Cities, an NFI publication authored by NFI Chairman Don Eberly and released at the urban fatherhood summit. "The cumulative costs of father absence directly associ-

ated with criminal justice, remedial education, family courts, and numerous family services account for a huge portion of urban revenues, resulting in dramatically higher taxes and more urban flight."

As the Mayors' Task Force prepares to take on father absence in the city, NFI will:

- serve as the information clearinghouse where mayors can access, and contribute information regarding successful urban fatherhood projects;
- make available to all members literature regarding reaching, supporting, and training fathers; and training social service providers in ways to more effectively reach out to fathers;
- help mayors design and promote father-friendly policies in their administrations; and
- work with mayors to create local Fathers' Resource Centers that will provide information to fathers and fatherhood practitioners.

"The Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion offers the best opportunity to date to combat father absence in urban neighborhoods," said NFI president, Wade F. Horn, Ph.D. "Mayors are uniquely positioned to mount the forces of an entire city — from vast city resources to the civic, business, religious, educational, and social service leadership — against the serious problem of fatherlessness in the urban areas."



Mayor Stephen Goldsmith

The one most frequent pathway to a fatherless home is divorce, and out of wedlock childbearing. Indeed, when a child resides in a single parent household 85% of the time it is the father who is absent from the home. Consequently, a legitimate question is whether or not legislation aimed at promoting fatherhood should also promote marriage.

We've asked three important voices in the national debate on fatherhood and marriage to share their opinions on this topic. We'd love to hear your views as well.



Sen. Evan Bayh

Encouraging responsible fathers is good for children. Is marriage?

The irony in our nation's unprecedented economic prosperity is that many Americans still feel our country is on the wrong track

— that there has been a deterioration of our society's values. There seems to be a fraying of our social fabric, and many indicators point to the increase in absentee fathers as the culprit.

Our colleague, Senator Joseph Lieberman, describes fatherlessness as the greatest social crisis of our time. He is right. The National Fatherhood Initiative has illuminated this fact with their research — when fathers are absent, children are five times more likely to live in poverty, twice as likely to commit crime, more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, twice as likely to drop out of school, more likely to commit suicide, over twice as likely to abuse alcohol or drugs, and more likely to become pregnant as teenagers. It is increasingly clear that many of the social challenges we seek to avert are really symptoms of a deeper problem — fractured families and father absence.

Regrettably, the number of children living in households without fathers has tripled over the last forty years, from just over five million in 1960 to more than 17 million today. The past thirty years have also shown a steady decline in the number of married households: dropping from 70% in 1970 to 54% in 1996. Sadly, fathers are not only moving out of the house, but they also are moving out of their children's lives.

Sometimes this unfortunate result is unavoidable — where child or spousal abuse exists for example — and it is not uncommon today to know someone who is raising children in a single-parent household (and marvel at how they manage it). Single moms are especially heroic in their efforts to make ends meet financially while raising good, emotionally

well-adjusted children. But an increasing number of single fathers, where no extenuating circumstances exist, are not doing their parts to support their children financially or emotionally — too often they are absent entirely.

This raises the question of whether legislation which is intended to promote responsible fatherhood should also promote marriage? In the American tradition, the institution of marriage is viewed as the cornerstone of a strong family and by extension, of a strong society. These facts make a compelling case: children who live with their married parents receive higher grades in school, have a lower rate of delinquency, are less likely to use alcohol and drugs, and are less likely to commit crimes.

Of course, while the government should not be creating barriers to marriage, promoting marriage does not mean mandating marriage. We should not fool ourselves into thinking that marriage is always synonymous with responsible fatherhood. Not every marriage will produce a father committed to the better welfare of his children. No woman ever should be expected to tolerate the physical or emotional abuse of her children or herself.

In addition, there is one often overlooked obstacle to promoting marriage as a vehicle to helping children — inexperience. Today there are millions of men who have fathered children whose own childhoods were completely devoid of even the presence of their fathers, let alone married role models. Through helping these men put together the pieces of their lives, the likelihood is increased that they and the next generation will ultimately succeed at marriage. It is important for absent fathers to realize what a tremendous impact they have on their children's lives, to acquire the skills they need to take on the responsibility of a family, and to develop a mature relationship with their children's mother.

Last summer we introduced legislation to spotlight the importance of fathers, family, and marriage for child development. It aims to strengthen fragile families and promote responsible fatherhood through public awareness, community involvement and removal of federal barriers to active fatherhood and married, two-parent families.

The ultimate objective we seek is a better, healthier future for all children. To that end, it has become increasingly clear that in most, but not all, circumstances the emotional and financial involvement of fathers and mothers — within the bonds of marriage — is the optimal structure within which to achieve this goal. Is marriage the best situation in every case? No. Can children be successfully raised using other approaches? Yes. But we owe it to our children to promote the optimal environment for successful growth, and the one most likely to benefit them.

In response to this critical need, we offer The Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999. We do so recognizing that government at its best is a poor substitute for good parents. And that even the most artfully crafted legislation cannot single-handedly end the tragic consequences of so complex a social challenge as this. If future generations of children are to know the security and love of committed

THE N

SHOULD LEGISLATION FATHERHOOD ALSO — THREE PI

mothers and fathers, it will not be due to any government program acting on its own. A brighter tomorrow will only be secured if government can inspire and marshal the wealth and talents of our community, religious and philanthropic institutions to this cause.

Together we can reverse the trends of irresponsibility of the last two generations and give more of our children the ideal experience of devoted parents within successful marriages. There is no doubt that this endeavor will be the work of a lifetime. But let us commit ourselves to marking this moment as the turning point, understanding in the words of Winston Churchill that "this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

• Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) is a member of the Committee of Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Energy and Natural Resources; and Special Aging



Maggie Gallagher

Now that fatherhood advocates face the happy task of divvying up perhaps as much as \$1 billion to promote fatherhood, the marriage question has suddenly jumped front and center. Sharp internal debates over how much fatherhood money should be

devoted to promoting marriage, as the place where strong father bonds are most likely to be sustained, are spurred by philosophical divisions, but also by the large race and class differences in marriage and divorce rates. Understandable concerns about getting funds into the neediest communities do battle with the equally laudatory desire to restore marriage as a dependable child-rearing bond in mainstream society.

Two different approaches to resolving these disputes are currently on the table. The first would Solomonically reserve half the funds for "marriage-only" programs, hoping to spur new and innovative marriage-strengthening reforms, while leaving half the money for "non-marital" programs, such as parenting classes, job training and child support initiatives for single fathers.

The second approach, championed by Rep.

FORUM

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PROMOTE MARRIAGE? P E C T I V E S —

Nancy Johnson (R-CT) among others, would require all fatherhood programs to have at least a nominal marriage component, but to permit promoting marriage to be just one of many program goals.

Which way is better? In my humble opinion, neither. The second suggestion sounds pro-marriage, but in practice is likely to stimulate few if any new initiatives. If the experience with abstinence education is any guide (and I think it is), the marriage component of these programs is likely to be reduced to a few pro-forma words dressing up conventional social work formulas.

Coming up with new ideas to support the marriage bond is hard. If federal funds can be used merely to expand traditional programs, then the law of entropy (not to mention institutional hostility to marriage among some service professionals) predicts human beings will prefer the familiar to the innovative. So when Congress made abstinence only one part of a sex education program, as Robert Rector has pointed out, all federally funded sex-ed programs were "essentially condom-delivery programs with a little bit of abstinence tacked on the front." By contrast when Congress reserved even a small portion of family planning funds for abstinence-only education, a whole new infrastructure of community groups sprang up to advance the goals that traditional providers were uncomfortable serving. The result? For the first time in recorded human history, the proportion of sexually active teenagers is dropping.

If we are serious about rebuilding fatherhood, we cannot be content with merely rhetorical efforts to support marriage. By reserving at least half the fund for "marriage only" strategies, we can reasonably hope to stimulate a flood of creative energy and initiative in new leaders and reformers, who won't be dragged kicking and screaming (as traditional providers might be) into desultory marriage-talk, but who are actually eager to help reverse the decline in married fatherhood. Of course to be truly effective, these new marriage-only programs must have clearly defined goals and be willing eventually to submit themselves to outside assessment. It is not enough to build a marriage infrastructure that serves the service providers; we must find strategies that actually make a difference in children's lives.

But implicitly reserving half the funds for programs to invigorate fatherhood outside of marriage is also, in my mind, a grave mistake. It concedes too much and dares too little. The sad truth

is that there is little evidence that we can revive fatherhood on a broad scale outside of marriage, at least in ways that make a big difference in children's lives. Children whose fathers pay child support, for example, do not do markedly better than children whose fathers don't. Even frequency of visitation appears to make no difference in children's well-being. Effective fatherhood outside of marriage represents a vast social experiment which has not been achieved in any human society. Investing high hopes or huge sums in such an experiment seems unwise. Chances are, that in five years, researchers will find few, if any, results, and the fatherhood movement may be politically discredited.

Instead, fatherhood advocates should unite under the framework sketched out in the groundbreaking Morehouse Statement on African-American Fathers: "the fatherhood movement must promote both marriage and marriageability." Programs that are not "marriage-first" strategies need not be programs "outside marriage." Instead job training, parenting programs and other services should be targeted to fragile families (especially poor fathers living with the mothers of their children) and placed within a marriage context, having as their eventual goal the fostering of fathers and relationships fit for marriage. Under promoting "marriageability," fatherhood advocates can pay attention to the important economic component of the decline of marriage among poor young men, address the breakdown in gender relationships, and also create new marriage mentoring and premarital education programs in inner city churches to help those young couples who say they are interested in marriage, achieve this part of their dreams.

The task of reviving a marriage culture in the inner city is critical, but dauntingly large. We can take courage from the fact that, according to the latest research by Sara McLanahan, marriage is what young people in fragile families and neighborhoods say they ideally want. Outside the Beltway, marriage is not a word that sparks sharp, ideological debates. It is a shared value, an aspiration that unites, rather than divides, us all.

• *Maggie Gallagher is Director of the Marriage Project at the Institute for American Values.*



Ron Mincy

is that there is little evidence that we can revive fatherhood on a broad scale outside of marriage, at least in ways that make a big difference in children's lives. Children whose fathers pay child support, for example, do not do markedly better than children whose fathers don't. Even frequency of visitation appears to make no difference in children's well-being. Effective fatherhood outside of marriage represents a vast social experiment which has not been achieved in any human society. Investing high hopes or huge sums in such an experiment seems unwise. Chances are, that in five years, researchers will find few, if any, results, and the fatherhood movement may be politically discredited.

When the family situation warrants it, yes. But, as a general principle, no. The fatherhood movement must be clear about its mission, which I believe is to improve the well-being of children by engaging or re-engaging fathers. Though there is no reason to expect dramatic increases in the number of children reared in married-couple families, new research, by the

Urban Institute, provides reason for optimism about father involvement. Sixty-two percent of American children under three years old live in families in which parents are co-habiting or in which the father visits the child at least once per week. I call the poor among these families, fragile families. Unfortunately, as children get older the proportion who live with married and fragile families rapidly declines. Fatherhood programs are learning how to help never-married and divorced or separated fathers to remain involved in the lives of their children. If such involvement can reduce maternal stress and increase the developmental stimulation they receive, especially during the child's early years, the payoffs to children are high. The fatherhood movement should focus on this task, leaving the importance of marriage for others to debate. To do otherwise makes second-class citizens of a large and growing number of children who have unmarried fathers, along with the practitioners who serve them.

This does not mean that marriage has nothing to do with fatherhood, because fathers in a loving, equitable, and well-functioning marriage are in a better position than any other fathers to support their children. This is probably why the research indicates that children of married parents do better on most measures of well-being, than children in any household arrangement, except widowhood. So, how can the fatherhood movement take up the issue of marriage, without saying to the almost one third of American children born to unwed parents, plus those of divorced, or dysfunctional marriages, "...you're not our priority?"

NFI's President, Wade Horn, provided the answer a few years ago at a conference organized by leaders of the mainstream fatherhood movement. The conference called, "The Fatherhood Movement: A Call to Action," was intended to build a broad consensus among groups serving children in different father and family situations. By emphasizing the difference between prevention and intervention, Horn helped conference participants reach that consensus. To men who have no children, the fatherhood movement should discourage unwed fatherhood, because we know that it puts the father in a weaker position to support his child. However, for children born to divorced, separated, unmarried, or dysfunctionally-married parents, the prevention question is moot. Practitioners are learning how to encourage parents in fragile families to focus on the needs of their child(ren). This is the first step in a new counseling model, called "T-E-A-M" Parenting, which often reveals whether or not marriage is feasible. If it is, marriage promotion can become part of the practitioner's intervention strategy for that family. Many practitioners are developing program modules that help couples who are considering or open to marriage, learn more, decide if marriage is right for them, and if it is, learn how to make it work. Some are even collaborating with faith-based organizations, so that couples who believe, as my wife and I do, that a marriage, is first and fore-

— continued on page 9

Dad Goes to the Mall



P.O.P.S. Essay contest winners and their fathers at a Philadelphia Phillies game.

Promotion Proves Good for Dads and Business

Hypothesis: Retailers that promote responsible fatherhood not only help their community, but will increase sales revenue, as well.

Experiment: The Promoting Ongoing Parental Support (P.O.P.S.) program at malls owned by the Rouse Company in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, June, 1999.

The Proof: In the pudding!

When the Rouse Company's seven area shopping malls ran P.O.P.S. throughout this past June, retailers knew they were doing a good deed. And it was one good deed that really paid off – for local fathers and kids, and their own bottom line.

Working closely with NFI, each of the malls organized numerous events to publicize the importance of fatherhood and spur fun between

fathers and their children. Among the 32 different events were a father-child frisbee contest, family fun walks, "Create a Sundae for Dad" (sponsored by Dairy Queen), a yo-yo contest (sponsored by Kaybee Toys), and a free portrait for fathers and their children at Expressly Portraits.

A "My Pops is Tops" essay contest drew more than 400 entries, which were prominently displayed in store windows. Winning essays won prizes ranging from tickets to a Philadelphia Phillies baseball game to tickets to the New Jersey State Aquarium. Indeed, the Phillies donated an entire section of seating for essay contest winners and their dads.

At each of the malls, fathers could pick up NFI brochures and other materials offering concrete suggestions for being more involved in their children's lives.

The Rouse Company reports that P.O.P.S. was tops for store owners, as well. Mall sales during the month-long campaign were up 18.6%, with family and specialty category store sales up 23.7%.

These Shopping Centers are affiliates of
THE ROUSE COMPANY

- BURLINGTON CENTER
- Echelon Mall
- Cherry Hill Mall
- EXXON SQUARE
- Gallery
- Moorestown Mall
- Promotional Meeting
- POPS

ASK THE CHILDREN:

Fathers Matter

BY ELLEN GALINSKY

Until now, national discussion about work and family life has omitted the voice of one critical family member: the child.

I have spent the last five years investigating what children in grades 3 through 12 think and feel about their working parents. I conducted a nationally representative random survey of 1,023 children, conducted in-depth interviews with 171 parents and children, and telephone interviews with 605 other employed parents. The results are reported in my new book, *Ask the Children: What America's Children Really Think About Working Parents*.

My research confirms but also adds new insight to the growing body of social science research that is showing just how much fathers matter to their children. Here are four of my key findings:

■ **Children want more time with their fathers.** It is commonly believed that children miss their working mothers more than their fathers. But my research shows that if granted one wish to change the way their mothers' or their fathers' work affects their lives, more children wish for more time with their fathers than their mothers.

■ **Teenagers want more time with their fathers.** It is commonly believed that as

children get older – especially as they move into the teenage years – they want to separate from their parents. However, my research shows that 39 percent of children aged 13 through 18 feel they have “too little time” with their fathers, compared to 29 percent of children ages 8 through 12.

■ **Children care about the way fathers spend time with them.** It is not just the amount of time with their fathers that counts to children but the nature of their time together. Again and again I found that children valued two types of time with their fathers, the same as with their mothers. On the one hand, they want their fathers to focus on them – to really engage with or attend to their concerns, which sometimes means grappling with tough issues. On the other hand, they want to be able to “hang out” with their fathers – to kick back and relax without being focused on a particular issue.

■ **Children want their fathers more involved at school.** It is not just in the home that children want the engagement of their fathers. Seventy-one percent of teenagers assess their mothers positively for being involved “with what is happening to me at

A LANDMARK STUDY REVEALS SURPRISING NEW TRUTHS

ASK THE CHILDREN

What America's Children Really Think About Working Parents

Ellen Galinsky
President of the Families and Work Institute

school” compared with 62 percent for fathers.

We can learn a great deal by listening to America's children. They are telling us that fathers matter, that they are an important presence in children's lives, and that they need to be even more of a presence. Now it's up to us — as fathers and mothers — to make that happen.

Ellen Galinsky is co-founder and president of the Families and Work Institute. For more information or to order *Ask the Children*, go to www.familiesandwork.org or call (212) 465-2044.

The FORUM

continued from page 7

most, a vow before God¹ can be supported in building a spiritual foundation for their marriage. However, if marriage is not feasible, whatever the reason, the practitioner still works to improve the relationship between the parents, so that this relationship does not become a barrier to the relationship between the father and child.

Just last week, I asked an extraordinary young couple who had benefited from the services of one of these practitioners, if marriage promotion should be part of father promotion? Marriage had always been a priority for him, but only recently a priority for her. Their shared priority was working together so that they could jointly support their children, who were now six and four years old. Without hesitation, the new bride answered:

No! Her reason: “a young man may be ready to be a father, but that does not mean he is ready to be a husband.” This should remind the movement that a child, especially a young child, is a

passive recipient of almost any expression of affection that a father is willing to give. A wife, by contrast, has higher expectations.

Political conservatives tend to focus on the effects of fatherlessness on the moral condition of our society. This has put them against liberals and progressives, whose focus—child poverty and well-being—conservatives believe to be too narrow, and feminists, who want options for family composition that conservatives believe are too broad. Thus, conservatives in the fatherhood movement have to choose between a broad-based consensus across the fatherhood movement or a debate that they must wage, on at least two fronts, about what is best for our society. Because it involves such fundamental questions, including moral questions, this debate is unlikely to be resolved in the near future. For example, is fatherhood important because we need to restore the nuclear family as the core institution in western culture and religion? What does this mean for members of our increasingly diverse society, who do not trace our family traditions from the west? Or, is it important because it is part of a broad-

based strategy for healing and redeeming lost members of a nation, which is most clearly articulated in that verse so often quoted, out of context, by some fatherhood proponents, about “restoring the hearts of fathers to their children.”

Attempts to impose one moral, cultural, religious, or political standard on a whole society as diverse as ours, will be mired in endless debates about whose standard should prevail. I doubt that a coherent fatherhood movement could ever emerge in the midst of such a debate. Instead, we all should remain ruthlessly focussed on fatherhood promotion. The prospects for improving the lifelong capacities of children, through the early and positive involvement of both Mom and Dad, are just too great to choose otherwise.

• Ron Mincy is Senior Program Officer of the Human Development and Reproductive Health Unit—Part of the Asset Building and Community Development Program at The Ford Foundation.

FATHERHOOD IN FOCUS

Recent Media Coverage of Fatherhood

NOTABLE QUOTES

"To me, that's the easy way out: give [the kids] some money and then run off. The money doesn't comfort them at night. They can't say, "Hey, Dollar Bill, I had a nightmare last night" and expect the dollar bill to rock them and hold them. Money is there because it is a necessity. But if you give a child love and attention, money is the last thing they are going to look for."

- Isalah, age 40

As quoted in "Low-Income Single Fathers in an African American Community and the Requirements of Welfare Reform"

Journal of Family Issues, Vol. 20, No.4, July 1999

"The boys made snowballs and tossed them at each other with indifferent results. Every so often, Alex, a bigger boy, would pack together a truly immense snowball and gesticulate menacingly towards Tommy Stein. Tommy would hide behind me and say, 'You can't hit me. When I'm touching Daddy, it's a safe zone.' It is magic every time I hear him say that."

- Ben Stein

Excerpt from, "An L.A. Dad Discovers Idaho Fatherhood." *The American Enterprise* September/October 1999, Vol. 10, No. 5

"Our images need to change so that a man who doesn't assume [significant] responsibility as a parent is seen as a wimp, the idea should be, Real men diaper their babies."

- Betty Friedan, at a talk for the American Psychological Association's celebration of Women's History Month in March 1999. Ms. Friedan is also author of the controversial bestseller, *Feminine Mystique*, and more recently, "Beyond Gender: The New Politics of Work and Family"

"At the end of the day when I go to bed, Daddy tucks me in. We talk together about our day. He reads me a story to help me sleep. We pray together. That is my favorite part."

- Amanda, Age 6

As quoted by Mary Kay Shanley in *When I Think About My Father*

"No Matter how hard we try and no matter how much money we spend, government can't be a father. Government can't love, can't nurture, can't look over a child's shoulder to make sure the homework's done, can't see what they're watching on TV, or draw a line in the sand that says 'This is right and this is wrong'."

- Gov. Tom Ridge

90th Annual Meeting of the NGA, Aug 3, 1998

In case you missed our Fatherhood & TV Report, here's more evidence of the negative way fathers are often portrayed in Television.

"When your husband does get around to making a settlement offer, I want him to do it on his bare knees... and when we turn him down, I want to see him burst into tears, lick your shoes and beg for mercy."

- Quote from Dixie Carter's character, divorce attorney Randi King, on the CBS TV show "Family Law."

Breaking News!

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES LANDMARK FATHERHOOD BILL

On November 10, 1999, literally as this issue of *Fatherhood Today* went to press, the U.S. House of Representatives passed landmark fatherhood promotion legislation. Despite fierce opposition by the National Organization for Women (NOW), the legislation passed overwhelmingly, on a 328-93 vote, after successfully garnering the support of such distinguished national organizations as the Children's Defense Fund, the Center for Law and Social Policy, and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Co-Sponsored by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), the Fathers Count Act of 1999 is designed to provide funds to community-based organizations to: (1) promote married fatherhood as the ideal; (2) improve the parenting skills of fathers; and (3) enhance the employment status of fathers.

The legislation also provides for the establishment of a national clearinghouse and provides money for a national public education campaign promoting the importance of responsible fatherhood. Incentives are also included for states to allow more child support payments to pass directly through to the custodial parent.

There will be more to come on this historic legislation in the next issue. For now, you might want to thank those representatives who voted in favor of this bill! To obtain a copy of the legislation, call the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means at 202-225-1025.

Holiday Reminder

Books from our 1999 Resource Catalog make wonderful gifts. So if you're thinking about giving a fatherhood book as a gift this holiday season, you may want to consider placing your order through the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Remember, NFI members enjoy a 10% discount on all items in our Resource Catalog. To receive a catalog or to place an order, please call us at 301-948-0599. Or you can order via the Internet at our secure online resource catalog at www.fatherhood.org.

NFI IS EXPANDING!

and therefore moving locations within Gaithersburg, MD

Our new address is:
101 Lake Forest Blvd.
Suite 360
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Phone, fax, and e-mail remain the same.

SPEECHES AND APPEARANCES

BY NFI STAFF

- ✓ July 14, Dr. Horn participated in a press conference on Capital Hill announcing the introduction of "The Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999" along with Senate cosponsors Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Pete Domenici (R-NM).
- ✓ July 15, Neil Tift presented a workshop on "Developing Effective Fatherhood Programs" in Naperville, IL.
- ✓ July 27, Dr. Horn made a presentation to new fathers at "Dad's Night" at Camden Yards, home to baseball's Baltimore Orioles.
- ✓ August 2, Neil Tift presented Plenary Session at Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies National Conference in Seattle, WA.
- ✓ August 7, Dr. Horn made a keynote presentation on "Fatherhood, Abstinence and Marriage: Connecting the Dots" at the Medical Institute for Sexual Health's second national training conference in Austin, TX.
- ✓ August 18, Neil Tift presented plenary panel at the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education Conference. Mr. Tift, also presented his workshop, "Engaging Fathers in Children's Learning", in Washington, DC.
- ✓ August 20, Neil Tift presented at Coordinating Fatherhood Services Retreat in St. Paul, MN.
- ✓ August 23-25, Dr. Horn gave a series of lectures in Buenos Aires and Mendoza, Argentina, on child and family welfare issues and the importance of early childhood education programs.
- ✓ September 2, Neil Tift presented at "Grand Rounds Medical Staff Development" in Johnson City, NY.
- ✓ September 8, Dr. Horn was an invited participant at a working seminar on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) marriage penalty at the Brookings Institute.
- ✓ September 15, Neil Tift presented at the "Community Building 2000" state conference in Harrisburg, PA.
- ✓ September 16, Chairman Don Eberly, Joined Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania in announcing the Pennsylvania Fatherhood Initiative.
- ✓ September 21, Neil Tift, presented at the Department of Education conference, "Engaging Fathers in Children's Learning", in Washington DC.

- ✓ September 23, Dr. Horn gave a plenary session address at Governor Gilmore's Conference on "Right Choices for Youth" in Richmond, VA. Also, Neil Tift presented at the "Children's Rights Council National Conference" in Alexandria, VA.
- ✓ September 28, Dr. Horn presented a workshop on male involvement in abstinence education at the "Abstinence Education Workshop" sponsored by the Texas Department of Health in Austin, TX.
- ✓ September 29, Dr. Horn made a presentation at New York City's Human Resource Administration on ways to promote responsible fatherhood and marriage within an urban context.
- ✓ September 30, NFI's founder and CEO Don Eberly, NFI's President Wade Horn, and NFI's Resource Center Director Neil Tift, provided a briefing on NFI's Pittsburgh Fatherhood Initiative to philanthropic organizations located in the Pittsburgh Area.
- ✓ October 5, Dr. Horn provided invited expert testimony before the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives, concerning the "Fathers Count Act of 1999".
- ✓ October 14, Dr. Horn made the opening keynote presentation at the Michigan Family Support Council's annual training conference in Petoskey, MI.
- ✓ October 21, Dr. Horn made a keynote presentation on "Involving Fathers in the Perinatal Period" at the National Perinatal Association's Annual Clinical Conference and Exposition in Milwaukee, WI.
- ✓ October 26, NFI's founder and CEO Don Eberly, NFI's President Wade Horn, and NFI's Resource Center Director Neil Tift, participated in the first-ever Allegheny County Fatherhood Forum in Pittsburgh, PA.
- ✓ October 30, Dr. Horn participated in a panel entitled, "What We Have Learned About Promoting Marriage and the Family" at the Philanthropy Roundtable's annual conference in Naples, FL.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

NFI's leadership continues its high profile in the media. Since our last newsletter, Dr. Horn has been interviewed by numerous print and broadcast media including *CBS Evening News*, *ABC's 20/20*, *CNN Talk Back Live*, *Fox News Channel*, *Maryland Public Television*, *The New*

York Post, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *The Tampa Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Youth Today*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *New York Daily News*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *National Catholic Register*, *YM Magazine*, *Sesame Street Parents* magazine, *National Public Radio*, *ABC Radio Network News*, *Janes Parshall's America*, *Family News in Focus*, *UPI Radio Network*, *Wisconsin Public Radio*, and radio stations *KXNT* (Las Vegas), *WIVC* (Indianapolis), *WMUZ* (Detroit), *KSLR* (San Antonio, TX), *KXLY* (Spokane, Washington), and *KSFO* (San Francisco), among others.

Job Openings

The National Fatherhood Initiative is looking for a **VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMMING** to oversee the development of grass roots fatherhood projects and to manage affiliates.

Candidates should have ten years of experience in a similar professional setting, preferably involving community organizing and the design of direct service programming, with strengths in human relations; written and verbal communication; and working with an ethnically diverse constituency.

Resumes should be sent to:

National Fatherhood Initiative
1011 Lake Forest Blvd.
Suite 360
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

The National Fatherhood Initiative is looking for a **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**. The candidate must have at least 5 prior years of

development experience in a comparable organization and have the proven capacity to organize a professional fundraising department that can generate rapid financial growth.

Resumes should be sent to:

National Fatherhood Initiative
1011 Lake Forest Blvd.
Suite 360
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Q: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE FATHER ABSENCE IN AMERICA?
A: BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE**

Are you concerned about the decline of families in America? Do the oft-recited and tragic statistics of increasing crime, teen pregnancy, educational decline and poverty force you to ask what can be done? The answer to these baffling problems might be more simple than you think. The answer is **GOOD FATHERS.**

As a national nonsectarian, non-partisan organization, the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) is uniquely positioned to be

the broad-based leader of the fatherhood renewal movement in America, and we want you to join with us in this important work. Please do your part in confronting the problem of fatherlessness by becoming a member of NFI. The most important benefit of membership of NFI is that you will show a continual commitment to combatting the most crucial issue of our time—fatherlessness. Isn't that reason enough to pledge your membership, today?



Do Your Part – Join the Initiative!

YES, I would like to support the National Fatherhood Initiative by becoming a Member at the following level:

- \$35 NFI MEMBER (entitles member to all benefits listed above)
- \$100 NFI ASSOCIATE (Associates receive all benefits listed above, plus 5 additional copies of the Information/Media Kit and Community Impact Brochures)
- \$500 NFI PATRON (In addition to the above benefits, NFI patron members receive strategic update memoranda on a regular basis, periodic news clippings of our work, and advance notice of all publications and programs)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
Below is my credit card information: *(please circle one)*
AMEX Visa MasterCard Discover

Card # _____ exp. _____
Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to NFI are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Other than the specific benefits listed above, membership in NFI does not imply any other rights or obligations on the part of the individual member. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Fatherhood Today
NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE
101 LAKE FOREST BOULEVARD • SUITE 360
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877
E-mail: nfi1995@aol.com
http://www.fatherhood.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban, MD
Permit #5361

*****5-DIGIT 20006
34
ANDREA KANE
DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING,
17TH & PENNSYLVANIA NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006