

* Responsible Fatherhood Programs

An Initiative of Matrix Human Services



Presented by Murray Davis at Fauri Memorial
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- * **Mission:** Break generational cycle of familial poverty in Detroit & other communities
- * Over a dozen programs; 40 locations; 25,000 families & individuals annually
- * Largest Head Start/Early Head Start grantee in Detroit; up to 2,000 low-income families with children 0-5 years old
- * Focus on parental empowerment

* Matrix Human Services



- * Monthly “Donuts & Dads” Roundtables at H/S centers
- * Upcoming “Dad’s Club”: NFI’s 24/7 Dads Curricula
- * Father’s Basketball League
- * Job Fairs
- * Annual Fatherhood Conference: WCCCD/NW campus; February 13, 2016 sponsored by Partnership for Dads
- * Planned expansion of communities fatherhood programming

* Matrix Head Start Fatherhood Programs



- * The scientific branch dealing with Human Actions & Behavior
- * 3 Main elements for human motivation
 - * **Autonomy** - freedom to make own decisions
 - * **Mastery** - command over something, knowledge, skill; key link with autonomy - to want to be better at something that matters
 - * **Purpose** - a reason for doing something that matters - intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation
- * **With all three present:** will motivate fathers to become better dads; enroll in a program; habitually attend a program

* Behavioral Science*



- * NFI: #1 provider of fatherhood resources in U.S. since 1994
- * “24/7 Dad[®] : developed by team of nationally/internationally recognized fathering & parenting experts*
- * 12+ two hour sessions; five characteristics to be a great dad 24/7
- * All cultures, races, religions, backgrounds
- * **Goal:** awareness of himself as a man and his significance to his children/family with skills

* National Fatherhood Initiative “24/7 Dad[®]”



* **Some Sobering Statistics:**

- * Nationally 1 in 3 (25 million) children live absent of their biological father; in Detroit...it's 2 in 3* (95,265)
 - * Over the past thirty years, the rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers.**
 - * High-crime neighborhoods are characterized by high concentrations of families abandoned by fathers.**
 - * State-by-state analysis by Heritage scholars indicates that a 10 percent increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent homes leads typically to a 17 percent increase in juvenile crime.**
 - * The rate of violent teenage crime corresponds with the number of families abandoned by fathers.**
- * **The Father Factor: "[Exists]... in nearly all of the social issues facing America today"***
- * Poverty, Emotional/Behavioral Problems, Education achievement, Child Health, Crime, Incarceration, Child Abuse, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Childhood Obesity, Suicides

* **The Vital Father Need**



- * Recruit and Engage Absent Fathers 'where they are' (e.g. F.O.C., non-profits, churches, barber shops, etc.)
- * Encourage their awareness and self-worth as responsible fathers
- * Promote a comradery as fathers establishing their "legacy" for their sons and daughters
- * Teach necessary fathering skills for child age-appropriate groups
- * Educate mothers on benefits of responsible fatherhood engagement with their children

* Some Lessons Learned



* “CHILDREN NEED BOTH RESPONSIBLE PARENTS FOR BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOMES DESPITE PARENTAL LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, DIVORCE OR SEPARATIONS...*in most cases.*”

...M.B. Davis, Dads of Michigan, 2001

* **Most Important
Logical Goal**

