



FATHERHOOD COLLABORATIVE OF SAN MATEO COUNTY



Spring, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fatherhood Connection

***My father didn't tell me how to live;
he lived, and let me watch him do it.***
Clarence Budinton Kelland

Fatherhood Awards

For '09-'10, we presented our annual Fatherhood Awards at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors in September, 2009. Here are Supervisor Mark Church and Board Chair Bruce Collins presenting the award to Father of the Year, Robert Jones.



Message from the Chair



As the calendar year closed, the Fatherhood Collaborative looked back with pride on what it had accomplished in a year that posed a great many challenges, and it looked forward to a year of promise in 2010:

- With the assistance of Supervisor Mark Church, County Manager David Boesch, and H.S.A. Director Beverly Beasley Johnson, the Advisory Board was restructured, and moved to the Human Services Agency just before the end of the calendar year.
- Our Director, Eve Agiewich, along with Dr. Anand Chabra, were presenters in a national Webinar presented by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs.
- The Dads Count Breakfast and Awards Ceremony returned, with an inspirational talk by Justice Alan Page, an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. We decided to push back the next Dads Count to the fall of 2010, to give us time to put on our conference in January 2010 (see below), and to bring back Dad & Me @ the Park in June 2010.
- Our incredibly successful Dad & Me @ the Library continued to make the rounds at libraries county-wide. It pulls an average of 100 participants per session.
- Our Speakers Bureau was busy, responding to calls from College of San Mateo, Skyline College, childcare centers, the County's work-life programs and the County Jail. We continue to be sought out by programs for our expertise on fatherhood issues. If you would like us to address a program you are connected with, please contact our Director, Eve Agiewich, eagiewich@fatherhoodcollaborative.org, or 650-802-5090.

Bruce K. Collins,
Chair, Fatherhood Collaborative

Dad & Me @ the Library! with Puppet Art Theater

Locations and hours are listed on our calendar page at www.fatherhoodcollaborative.org

JAIL TALK

In that quiet week leading up to Thanksgiving, Board Chair Bruce Collins, a Senior Deputy Probation Officer, and our Director, Eve Agiewich, visited the Men's Minimum Security Transitional Facility in Redwood City. In an intense evening meeting, they met with 31 inmates to talk with them about the importance of fathers in the lives of their children.

All the men in the group were fathers, and all sat motionless, totally involved in the short video that Bruce and Eve played for them: *Show Your Love*, a film by Sam Kauffman. This video, made expressly for the purpose of showing fathers how important they are, is a series of interviews with young teens in the Boston area, exploring their relationships with their fathers, most of them not residing with the children.

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JAIL TALK

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The discussion after the film was highly animated; the men were very engaged, and wanted to talk about ways they can improve their relationships with their children, even while they are in custody.

Plans are in the works for a return visit, this time to the main jail, and repeat showings of the video.

If you would like a speaker to visit your program to talk about the importance of fatherhood, and/or to show the video *Show Your Love*, please contact our Director, Eve Agiewich, at 650-802-5090, or eagiewich@fatherhoodcollaborative.org

Role Models

You never know who is watching you, trying to follow in your footsteps. This past December, our Director received a phone call from Joseph E. Prince, a native of East Palo Alto, hoping to find someone who could get a message to Alonzo Emery, the Vice Chair of the Fatherhood Collaborative. He wanted to send Alonzo a copy of his book, *Liberation Saturday*. What unfolded was a truly inspirational tale:

Mr. Prince grew up in East Palo Alto during the turbulent 60s and 70s. The book title refers to the Saturday Day School established in East Palo Alto in the 60s to help black students build self-esteem through pride in their heritage, and to supplement the somewhat inferior education being offered in the local public schools. The book celebrates many of the local residents who helped establish the school, as well as the young local athletes who motivated Joe Prince to become a runner, and served as examples for the young athlete. It is in this latter category that Alonzo Emery is mentioned, on page 58 of the book.

"*Liberation Saturday* has been called an 'inspirational book of going the distance' and tells Joseph Prince's story as he becomes a track star at Ravenswood High School but then has to struggle with illness, despair and other difficulties. Ultimately he surmounts many obstacles to complete his education, find peace with himself and become a successful high school teacher and role model in his own right." (News@epa.net)

The book also provides a stunning example of how, without their knowing it, men and even boys can become role models for others.



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**Contact our
director at 650-802-5090 or
info@fatherhoodcollaborative.org**

Conference 2010

Our January 29, 2010 conference was a resounding success. Titled *Engaging Fathers: A Broad Spectrum Look at the 'Why' and the 'How'*, it attracted an audience of more than 70 professionals, including social workers, nurses, and family workers.

Three keynote speakers were highlighted: Philip and Carolyn Cowan, Ph.D. Emeriti from UC Berkeley launched the morning, discussing why father-involvement is vital for children's success. This was followed by four break-outs.

The afternoon keynote speaker, Héctor Sánchez-Flores, led a discussion about *how* to engage fathers and then also taught one of the remaining four breakout session.



We could not have done it without the generosity of the San Mateo County Office of Education, which provided its meeting rooms, and its staff. Additional, much-welcome

in-kind support came from Parenting on the Peninsula, IHSD, the California Medical Association, and the San Mateo County Health System.

Generous financial support also contributed to an outstanding event. See the donor list for fiscal '09-'10 to date below.

Thanks to our 09-10 donors and sponsors to date...

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