



FATHERHOOD COLLABORATIVE OF SAN MATEO COUNTY



Summer, 2009

Volume 4, Issue 1

# Fatherhood Connection

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

## Message from the Chair

Another fiscal year is coming to a close for the Fatherhood Collaborative:

- Supervisor Mark Church, President of the Board of Supervisors, has graciously and enthusiastically stepped into the role of Board Liaison, with the departure of Jerry Hill to the State Assembly.
- Our Director, Eve Agiewich, along with Dr. Anand Chabra, was invited to present a paper at the CityMatch Conference for urban maternal and child health organizations. Subsequently, they were both invited to participate in a national Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Webinar.
- 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! (see below)
- Our Partners in Service for 2009 are serving dads in the community. This year we partnered with five agencies: **Family & Children Services** - Positive Solutions Men's Outreach Project; **Peninsula Library Service** - Community Information Program; **Ravenswood School District** - Team Dad / Equipo de Padres; **Family Connections** - Father / Male Caregiver Program; **Sunset Ridge Elementary School** - Donuts for Dads.
- Our incredibly successful Dad & Me @ the Library will continue to make the rounds at libraries county-wide. The schedule for '09-'10 is now at: [fatherhoodcollaborative.org](http://fatherhoodcollaborative.org), and planning has begun for a large professional conference to be held in January 2010.
- 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](mailto:eagiewich@fatherhoodcollaborative.org), or 650-372-3252.

Bruce K. Collins  
Chair, Fatherhood Collaborative

Want to become a sponsor  
or advertise in our newsletter?  
Contact our Director at 650-372-3252 or  
[info@fatherhoodcollaborative.org](mailto:info@fatherhoodcollaborative.org)

## Check Out Our Blog!

This article was forwarded by our board member, Angel Barrios, Executive/Program Director of the Institute for Human and Social Development, Inc (IHSD) It appeared on our blog on June 2, 2009.

What do you think? Join the conversation at:  
[fatherhoodcollaborative.blogspot.com](http://fatherhoodcollaborative.blogspot.com)

## Six Ways to be an Awesome Dad

1. **Show lots of love.** Hug your children often, starting when they're infants. As they grow, applaud their accomplishments. Affection and praise can build a strong relationship and give your child a positive sense of worth.
2. **Set a good example.** Little eyes see all you do, from how you interact with their mother to how you handle life's problems.
3. **Interact.** Spending time together shows kids they're important. Occasionally, that might mean giving up some of your activities. Childhood happens only once - there are no do-overs.
4. **Earn the right to be heard.** Talk with your children - and not just when they have done something wrong. Begin when they are young, and do so often. Really listen, too. This helps build trust, which will encourage your kids to listen when you offer guidance as they grow older.
5. **Discipline with love.** The right kind of discipline helps children learn limits. Teach your kids that actions have consequences. Acknowledge good behavior. When they don't do things you expect, control your emotions. Never yell at or hit them.
6. **Be a teacher.** Look for ways to help children learn life lessons. For example, you can encourage young children to dress themselves or pick up toys. This helps them become self-sufficient. Talk with older kids about alcohol, drugs and peer pressure. Gradually give them more chances to make decisions. This helps prepare them for adulthood.

## Dads Count Returns with Justice Alan Page

**Justice Alan C. Page**, Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was the keynote speaker for the seventh **Dads Count Fatherhood Breakfast and Awards Ceremony** on April 17, 2009. Justice Page

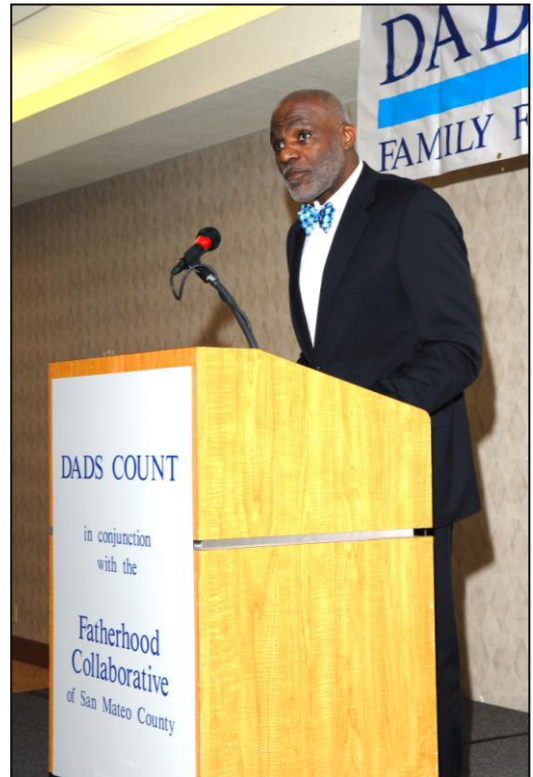
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## Dads Count Returns with Justice Alan Page

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spoke, not about his years with the Minnesota Vikings, but about his time on the court, and, more importantly, about the importance of fathering, and the joys of raising and supporting children and children's literacy. Honored at the breakfast, as family-friendly employers, were: **Wells Fargo, Flicker, Kerin, Kruger & Bissada, LLP, and Redwood City PAL.** Major sponsors of the event included: Norcal Waste Systems of San Mateo County, Wells Fargo, Comcast, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the Tom Lantos Committee, and the San Mateo County Human Services Agency.

An added bonus of the Breakfast was the opportunity for our Vice Chair, Alonzo Emery, to reconnect with some of his old football buddies. Alonzo played pro football on and off for 4 years with World Football League, St Louis Cardinals and Canada football League Saskatchewan Rough Rider. As a result of the breakfast, he will be joining the **NFL Alumni Association**, which bought a table for the event.



## We get mail!



Earlier this year, we got this email from a single mom: "My daughter and I went to the 'Dad and Me @ the Library' event in Menlo Park last week, and it was truly wonderful. First, I want to thank you for bringing that program to our local library. We had a wonderful, wonderful time. I'm a full-time single mom (no dad in the picture to help out), so I figured I could bring her as her proxy 'dad' to the event. But then I learned about [the] Fatherhood Collaborative, and was really impressed with your organization. I've established a strong relationship between my daughter and several of my male friends, and will look for 'Dad and Me' activities that I can send them on together. Having good quality time with a male adult is something that she really enjoys, and is healthy for her. Thanks for inspiring me to look for more activities. I've passed along information about your organization to several of my 'single Dad' friends, and have encouraged them to look at your calendar for upcoming events. Thanks for the work you do, and for realizing how important good 'fathering' is to a child."



**Dad & Me @ the Library!**  
Locations and hours are listed on our calendar page at [www.fatherhoodcollaborative.org](http://www.fatherhoodcollaborative.org)

In addition to the generous donors who bought tickets to Dads Count, the following people and organizations joined the ranks of Fatherhood Collaborative supporters:

**Heroes:** Department of Child Support Services

**Mentors:** Job Train

**Role Models:** Miles Davis & Erica Agiewich, YMCA of the Midpeninsula

**Allies:** Redwood Parents Nursery, Bohannon Foundation, Rabbi Josh Zweiback, Stephen Wagstaffe, David Steil, Mario Rendon, Ruth Nagler, Dan Evenhouse, Elisa Nunez



**Budget Woes:** While the week leading up to Fathers Day (June 21, 2009) is still Fatherhood Awareness Week, we have reluctantly canceled **Dad & Me @ the Park**, due to budget pressures. This annual lunch event has always been free to all participants, and as a result, it has grown enormously. In 2008 we served over 700 family members. Our options, this year, were to scale back, or charge for admission, both of which were unacceptable. We're working to resolve our budget difficulties so that Dad & Me @ the Park will be possible next year. In the meantime, we will hold our Father of the Year Award ceremony at a Board of Supervisors meeting in September. Look for the nomination forms soon.

Fatherhood Collaborative Board: Bruce Collins, Chair, Alonzo Emery, Vice Chair, Jeanine Asche, Secretary, Ignacio Guerrero, Treasurer, William Allen, Angel Barrios, Gary Beasley, Montez Davis, Sylvia Key, Patrick Ledesma, Mel Toomer

Contact us: Fatherhood Collaborative, c/o Family Health, SM County Health System, 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 200, San Mateo, CA 94402, phone: 650-372-3252 [info@fatherhoodcollaborative.org](mailto:info@fatherhoodcollaborative.org)