



June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The White House's Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, I am very excited to recognize your efforts to strengthen fatherhood and families with your event celebrating Father's Day.

Like millions of fathers around the nation, President Obama often says that being a dad "is the most important job I have." Dads are often our first teachers, our first coaches, the ones who, along with mothers, families and friends, provide the love and support that all children need.

However, far too many children in our communities are growing up without their fathers. And without the active involvement of dads, young people are more likely to drop out of school, be involved in the criminal justice system, and become teen parents themselves.

As a father of two young girls and someone who grew up without his dad in the home, President Obama knows firsthand the power of fathers being present in the lives of children – and the holes dads leave when they are absent. President Obama has made encouraging responsible fatherhood a top priority, and is working with partners like you around the country to make sure that every child has a safe, loving and caring home. This effort is supportive of all families, and affirms the central role of mothers in the lives of our children, especially those who have stepped up to the plate when dads haven't been around. This event and others being held at public housing authorities model the type of commitment our President has championed.

On behalf of the President, I personally want to thank you for stepping up to support fatherhood. You can learn more about the President's fatherhood agenda and sign the Fatherhood Pledge at [www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov).

And to all the fathers – we wish you a very Happy Father's Day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua DuBois". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joshua DuBois  
Special Assistant to President Obama  
Executive Director, White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships