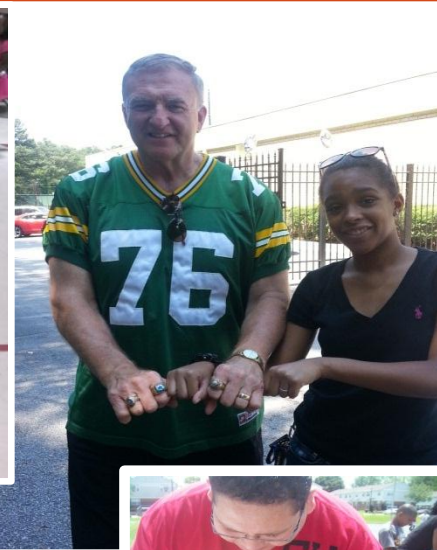
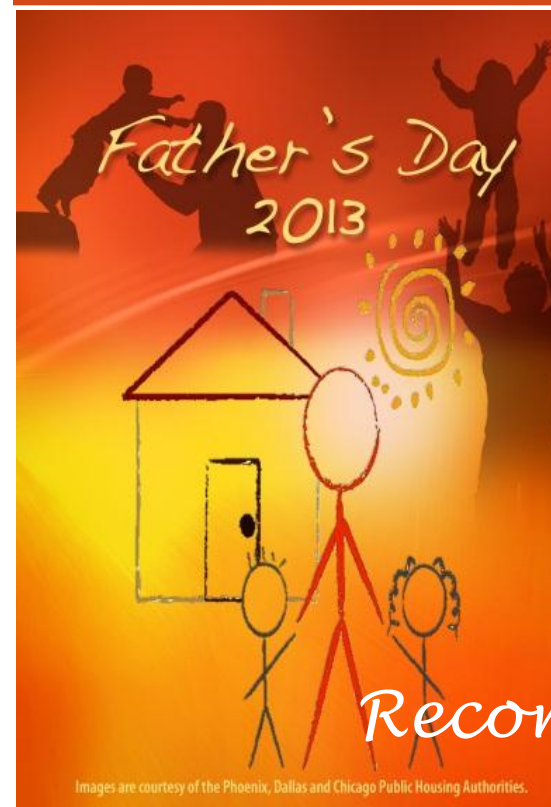




Father's Day 2013

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children live in father-absent homes. HUD believes those children—many living in public housing—deserve an opportunity to bond with their fathers. Reconnecting Families and Dads' yearly Father's Day events aim to do just that, with a variety of fun-filled activities for the children, and employment, health and legal resources for the dad. An astounding 322 housing authorities across the United States hosted Fathers Day events. We share with you below a few of their many success stories.



Tupelo Housing Authority, Tupelo, MS incorporated their annual Father's Day activity with their Summer Camp theme, "Heroes." June 10-14th was Heroes week at THA's Summer Day Camp. During the week they built their daily activities around various heroes (Super heroes, community heroes, heroes in history).

They culminated on Friday, June 14th with their most important heroic figure, dad. Friday was D.A.D.s Camp (**D**ads **A**ttending **D**ay Camp) spotlighting their fathers, father figures and male role models in the community. They were invited to have lunch and plenty of fun with the children attending camp.



In support of HUD's Father's Day Initiative, the **Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (HACLA)** partnered with the Los Angeles Dodgers to take fathers and their children from 14 public housing communities to one of four home games from June 3rd to June 12th. The Dodgers' generous donation of tickets and HACLA's contribution of transportation, meal tickets for Dodger stadium concession stands, and family resource bags made each outing a fun evening for family bonding and a learning opportunity to help families progress toward self-sufficiency.

The Father's Day initiative went beyond inspiration and entertainment by offering practical guidance to support each family's goal of economic independence. On the bus rides to the ballgames, HACLA provided each family with a resource bag filled with information on educational, employment, recreational, parenting and health services, including summer day camp and other family assistance, and discussed how to access the services. HACLA uses the valued HUD ROSS Service Coordinator grant to expand its network of partner agencies to assist residents. HACLA is also a One Stop WorkSource portal for the City of Los Angeles' Workforce Investment Act services to link employers to jobseekers, and jobseekers to job training and jobs. Both fathers and children enjoyed their evening together. Pico Gardens resident Herbert Russell, lifelong Dodgers' fan, took his son, Herbert Junior, and grandson, Bemari, to the June 5th game against the San Diego Padres. "We had an incredible time! The staff was great, the food was great." From San Fernando Gardens, Aracely Rodriguez described her evening with her brother, Erick, and their father, Rigoberto Rodriguez: "We were able to spend time with our father. He works a lot so we don't go with him to many events. He had a really good time."





Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers, Fort Myers, FL – In partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County, Lee County Black History Society and Lee County Housing Authority, the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers held its 3rd Annual Father's Day celebration on Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Clemente Park located at 1936 Henderson Avenue in Fort Myers. The Father's Day celebration was filled with a variety of fun and entertainment for children and families including stage performances, a BBQ cook-off, a youth basketball tournament, kids games, live entertainment, Father of the Year essay contest, raffle prizes and more. The housing authority combined efforts with the Lee County Black History Society's Juneteenth celebration and our Father's Day festivities all into one event.



Mike McCoy of the Green Bay Packers attended the **Fulton County Housing Authority, Atlanta, GA** event.



Boston Housing Authority, Boston, MA
Fathers Take the Pledge!

The **Martinsville Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Martinsville, VA** had quite a celebration in observance of the Fatherhood Initiative. On Tuesday, June 11th, a proclamation from the Governor of Virginia was presented to the Martinsville City Council, proclaiming this weekend as Fatherhood Observance Day. This was followed with a Fatherhood Summit on Friday, June 14th, held at the Moral Hill Missionary Baptist Church, in Axton, Va. This event was done in partnership with the Children Partners in Prevention, Inc. Part of that event was the awarding of Father of The Year to two (2) fathers, James Joyce and Howard Eugene Chism. Both men were nominated by their daughters.

The keynote speaker at this luncheon was the honorable Judge Arthur Burnett, Sr., retired Senior Superior Judge in Washington, DC. Judge Burnett is now the executive director of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition. Later that evening, there was showing of the movie, *Courageous* at the Rives Theatre in Uptown Martinsville, Va.

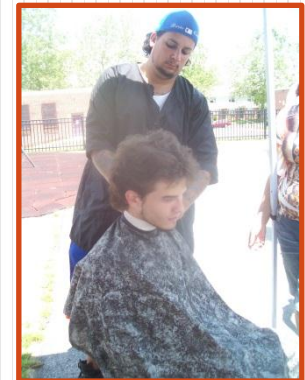




Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority, Lorain, OH partnered with El Centro de Servicios Sociales and the Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County, with sponsorship provided by Caresource. Fifteen supportive service agencies distributed information about their programs and services. Sponsors and partners made it possible to provide food, pony rides, a petting zoo, face paintings, and a DJ. Festivities included a kid identification station where the officers would take a photo of the child, record their height, weight and other characteristics, and scan their fingerprints to put into their system and give them a colorful identification card to carry.



Reading Housing Authority, Reading, PA Oakbrook Resident Council had the participation of more than 100 fathers and families. Mr. Jose Hernandez was father of the year. Fathers played basketball, decorated cookies, worked puzzles and painted with their sons and daughters. Mr. Roberto Carbajal represented Opportunity Behavior Health Inc. Had two haircut raffles and giveaways for all fathers.





Roses and Wings Girls Mentoring Program, Richmond, VA held their HUD Father's Day 2013 Initiative event on Sunday, June 23rd after church service at Providence Baptist Church during the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Third District (Virginia and Washington DC) Luncheon co-hosted by the Upsilon Nu Chapter by serving Colas and Cookies to Cool Dads. The Roses and Wings girls did not have fathers to connect with and the Upsilon Nu Chapter stepped up and volunteered to be "surrogate" dads and allowing the girls to participate in an activity with them.

Roses and Wings Girls Mentoring Program has operated at HUD housing in Richmond, VA Midlothian Village Apartment for four years, starting under Neighborhood Networks with Mr. Marcus Walker but now continues under Property Manager Tracey Hardney Scott. Roses and Wings in a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization that carries out the mission of ending juvenile delinquency in young girls ages 5 to 13 by teaching critical thinking, self-efficacy, and addressing high-risk factors associated with drugs, alcohol, gangs, sexual experimentation, and unhealthy relationships. They meet Saturday mornings, and along with the lesson of the day, they engage in reading, arts and crafts, music, and dance. Learn more at about Roses and Wings Girls mentoring program at www.rosesandwings.org.



The **McKinney Housing Authority, McKinney, TX** held its Annual Father's Day Event in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The event was a tremendous success! Fathers and residents enjoyed free food, games and activities with the kids and great prizes! Thanks to the many vendors for information, resources, gift cards and more.



The **Fort Worth Housing Authority, Fort Worth, TX** along with the **Tarrant County Housing Assistance Office** held their 3rd Annual Fatherhood Recognition Awards event to acknowledge the contributions of deserving fathers and men who have served as father figures in their community. The purpose was to pay tribute to the men who are making a difference in the lives of young people and serving as positive role models. The presentations were made by Barbara Holston, President & CEO of Fort Worth Housing Authority, and Wayne Pollard, Director of Tarrant County Housing Assistance Office.





The **Housing Authority of the City of Paterson, Paterson, NJ** ROSS Program held a Father's Day Celebration that embraced the simplicity of families coming together by hosting a competitive board game tournament. Parents and Kids came out to exercise their cognitive thinking skills and enjoy quality family time. In addition to the competitive fun of the community event it was a means to celebrate Father's Day and honor the men in the lives of their children. Everyone enjoyed the snacks, giveaways and trophies.

The **Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago, IL** held nine separate events in their communities. Each event had a different theme. There were cookouts with music food, fun, games, giveaways; service fairs; healthy food demonstrations; Fathers' Day card art projects; and sports events. Partners included service providers; local resident councils; non-profits such as Fathers, Families and Healthy Communities, the Salvation Army, and Black Star Project mentoring program; the Chicago Park District; and Trinity United Church of Christ. Events ranged from 15 attendees to 200, with a total of more than 500 participants.





Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones (center-left)



From L to R: Dr. Stephen Wilkerson, Army Research Lab, Dr. Vallen Emery, Army Research Lab, LTC Donald Outing, United States Military Academy



Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones; Jered Jacob, Jerryl Bennett (father of twin sons)

Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Hampton, VA (HHRA) in partnership with CCDC Fox Hill, LLC and West Point Society of Hampton Roads presented a Father's Day Program; "Reconnecting Families with Dads" at Hampton University in Hampton Virginia. HHRA was honored to have Deputy Secretary of HUD Maurice Jones serve as the keynote speaker for the event. His words inspired the importance of a father's involvement in the lives of children. He passionately spoke of his upbringing and the emphasis of hard work and education. Those in attendance were encouraged to utilize the invaluable resources offered by the varied and reputable partners with proven track records of transforming lives and communities. There was an engaging panel discussion that took place prior to the Deputy Secretary's arrival. The panel participants provided very personal and moving testimonials of life experiences that exhilarated the audience and provided healthy optimism. The stories had visible impacts on those in attendance and left them with understanding that no matter how bad a situation may be there is always hope.

The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) partnered with CLD_STEM with the leadership of Dr. Donald Outing to conduct the workshop. The students actively engaged in building robots and programming them for a later demonstration. Students worked tirelessly the entire day and were successful in getting the robots to move around on the floor mats. Two female students received honorable mention for their leadership during the process and ability to successfully program the robots. All students were recognized and given an award at the culmination of the event.

District of Columbia, Washington, DC - The Event Day, from 10:00am-4:15pm had three “pathway” activities, including an Opening Plenary Speaker during Breakfast at 10:00am to kick-off the day’s events and ending at 4:15pm after the conclusion of the Supportive Service Provider Pavilion, Discussion and Linkages to Services and a Father’s Talent Showcase. Each “Pathway” was co-developed by DCHA Fatherhood team and a partner organization as facilitator. Fathers and their children (and the Mothers) were recruited and encouraged to attend the pre and post events, including a HCVP Father’s Basketball Tournament on Sunday, June 30 and to enroll in the KIR Basketball Camp Tournaments which includes youth workshops on better decision making, conflict resolution, better communication skills, first impressions, saying no to drugs, when is the right time to have sex (with parental consent), and other life skills topics

Norwalk, CT – Father’s Day Fun Bash – Chess, Checkers, Uno and Rumikub.

Tuskegee Housing Authority, Tuskegee, AL (THA), in partnership with Tuskegee Macon County Community Development Corporation (TUSKMAC) hosted their fatherhood event on June 14, 2013. A total of 63 adults (39 men) and 20 children attended the event. This was the second year that they collaborated in this initiative. Their first event in 2012 was so rewarding and such a success that they decided to repeat it. Their theme was “A Date with Dad...TIES to the Family, Church and Community II. The movie for the night was Daddy Daycare, neckties were given to the fathers, door prizes for attendees, food (freshly popped popcorn, nachos and hotdogs) for all and FUN! FUN! FUN! In addition, included in the festivities was, a necktie tying booth, a photo booth and an HIV/AIDS education booth. Rides to the event were available by THA, upon request. The celebration was held at THA’s Life Development Center. The event was made possible with the donations from local churches, social organizations and THA. It was stated by many fathers “this is so nice we cannot wait until next year, it’s wonderful that you all are celebrating us.” We are looking forward to the continued growth of this celebration.

The first annual **Athens Housing Authority, Athens, AL** Father's Day Picnic was held at Fifth Avenue Park on Friday, June 14, 2013, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Residents from all five AHA communities were invited and encouraged to bring their fathers! Eighty-four residents and guests attended, with 25 fathers, 22 women, and 37 children making up the total. There were 14 volunteers from Central Church of Christ in attendance, as well as six staff and two AHA commissioners.

Staff decorated and provided bubbles and games for the kids to enjoy while volunteers from the church grilled hot dogs. The "Arts and Craft Lady" provided materials and supervision to make several different crafts, ranging from bookmarks to magnets. Adults enjoyed four games of Bingo, with the final coverall game ending in a tie with both winners receiving ten dollar gift cards. There was colorful chalk to paint a mural on the sidewalk! Baseball skills were taught and learned, and a kickball game was the grand finale for kids and adults alike.

AHA plans to continue the Father's Day Picnic each year as a part of its Fatherhood Initiative plan. The partnership between AHA and Central Church of Christ is a strong one, and both parties look forward to working together in this endeavor again.

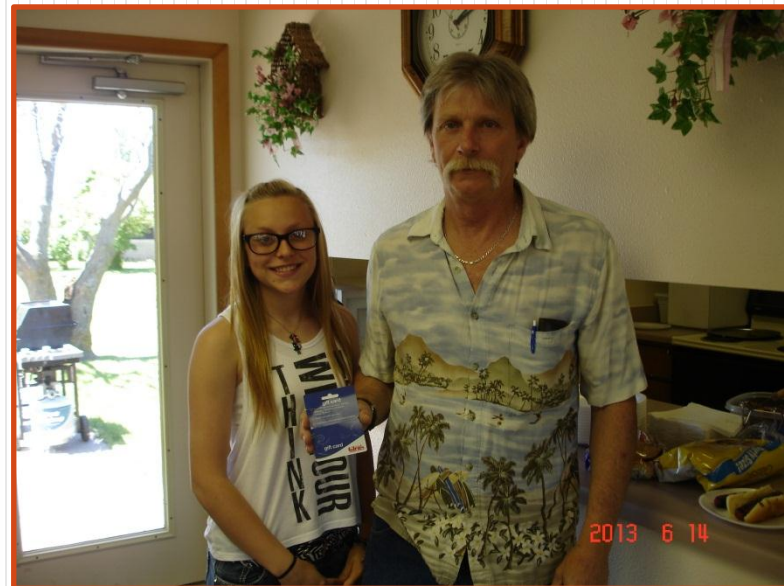


Photo Credit: News Courier



The **Forest Housing Authority, Forest, MS** sponsored its 2nd Annual Father's Day event June 08, 2013 at the Odessa Graves Educational Center. The Daddy & Me Luncheon was filled with fun, food, laughter, and with two dynamic influential guest speakers, Bro. RC Williams, from the MAP Head Start Center and Charles Longmire, Raytheon Systems Mississippi Incorporated. Each presented the group with inspiring works on the importance of being a positive father and the role they should play in their daily lives. They had a question and answer session with the fathers and their children. Afterward, lunch was served and gifts were distributed. Watching the children and fathers interact with one another was a touching moment and very meaningful.

Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, Sault Ste. Marie, MI held a Father's Day BBQ to show appreciation and support to fathers. Organizations included Safe Haven Tri-County Emergency Shelter, and the Salvation Army. There were 11 children, 12 adults and 5 families in attendance.





Mount Pleasant Housing Authority, Mount Pleasant, TX held their Father's Day event June 14, 2013. The event was very successful and well attended. There were over 40 families represented with ten fathers in attendance. They gave out to \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards as door prizes for adults in attendance and several children's prizes such as bubble wands, kites, and pin wheels. All enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Pahokee Housing Authority, Pahokee, FL

partnered with numerous organizations to host their week long celebrations! Events included Cooking with Kids, Family Fun Day, Fishing Tournament and Daddy N Me Gala. The Home Depot donated Kids' Workshop Kits and kids used their creativity painting wood trucks, bird feeders, message boards and house banks. Fathers and their kids joined their hand prints

on a frame as a reminder of being a "hands on" dad. Partnerships included the city of Pahokee, Bridges at Pahokee, Jewels of Pahokee and United Health Care. Community Service information was provided by the Florida Community Health Center, Florida Health Department, Comprehensive AIDS Program, Palm Beach County School District/HEART Program, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Alzheimer's Community Care and the Library and Sam's Club.



The **Pontiac Housing Commission, Pontiac, MI** Held a BBQ with plenty of local resources, local vendors provided prizes for free raffle drawings and each father as presented with a Father's Day Certificate. Organizations included Carriage Circle and Woodland Heights Resident Councils; McNeal's Barber Shop; The Resource Network, and Oakland Family Services. Over 70 fathers participated; 6 children, 25 other residents and volunteers, PHC Executive Director and Management Staff.



Escanaba Housing Commission, Escanaba, MI hosted an ice cream social . Although they don't have families or children, they celebrated their dads! A total of 36 attended.

The **Housing Authority of the City of El Paso, El Paso, TX** hosted a Father's Day event on Saturday, June 15 at the Family Investment Center. A car show, light refreshments, service providers, games, and interactive activities were on hand to help strengthen the important role fathers play in the success of the family.





Terre Haute Housing Authority, Terre Haute, IN – Hosted a Best Daddy on the Block Party , Super Heroes Theme. Organizations included FSS, Fatherhood Coalition, Children's Bureau, Terre Haute Sherriff, ISU Student Nurses, Voc Rehab, WorkOne, Terre Haute Public Library, Ryves Hall, Catholic Charities, MD Wise, Minority Health Coalition, Indiana Legal Services, Hamilton Center, HIV Care Coordination Services. 125 guests were in attendance.

Macon Housing Authority, Macon, GA was pleased to participate in Father's Day 2013. This was their 3rd year and their participation has increased each year. Even with the Juneteenth Celebration and other Father's Day events happening throughout Macon, over 70 attended. All fathers received a Fathers Rock 2013 T-shirt.

Guest speaker Douglas "Lokey" Taylor, gave an inspirational message about his struggles through life and how he triumphed; Hairitage Barbershop and AJ Cuts provided free haircuts to 16 fathers Participating Agency Partners included Macon Promise Neighborhood, Mercer University EOC, Phillips Performing Arts Studio, United Healthcare, Central GA Technical College, 7000 Men; Phillip's Performing Arts Studio had members from their Elite Dance team perform Ballet and Spiritual Dance pieces – AWESOME!!!

Twenty-five fathers completed the Family Commitment Card - 16 selected Reading Together, 3 selected Getting involved w/school and education, 2 selected Volunteering to work on community project together and 1 selected everything on the list! We look forward to doing it again in 2014!!!!



The **Clearwater Housing Authority (CHA)**, the **Dunedin Housing Authority (DHA)**, and the **St. Petersburg Housing Authority (SPHA)**, FL joined forces to host *Father's Day 2013*, a free event to celebrate families and to encourage responsible fatherhood among the housing authorities' residents. All tenants in CHA, DHA, and SPHA's housing programs, including Public Housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, were invited to attend the festivities, which took place on Saturday, June 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at SPHA's central office (2001 Gandy Boulevard North) in St. Petersburg. A total of 123 residents attended *Father's Day 2013*, including 71 children and 10 fathers. This total made up 38 families, of which 26% brought a father. 31 volunteers, including housing authority and other community members, worked to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

The housing authorities took a collaborative approach to *Father's Day 2013*, sharing the planning duties and the nominal event costs. To encourage involvement in *Father's Day 2013*, the event included a variety of fun and family-friendly activities for residents of all ages, such as a bounce house, carnival games, a balloon twister, face painting, a professional DJ, live performances, arts and crafts, tours of a fire truck, and much more. Each housing authority tenant attending the event also received a free raffle ticket for amazing prizes. Complimentary refreshments, donated by local restaurants and stores, were served to all residents.



The **Housing Authority of Covington, Covington, KY** held a Father's Day/Family Day event in their City Heights community on Friday, June 14, 2013.

Residents and staff chose a mini - carnival theme complete with hot dogs, popcorn, carnival games, raffles and corn hole. More than 50 attended the event. The day's theme emphasized family fun and the importance of parental involvement.

Two guest speakers helped kick-off the event: Michael Lee, Director of Inclusion & Cultural Initiatives at Gateway Community College, and Bryan Carter, Lt. Colonel from the Covington Police Department. Both thanked attendees for participating in the day's festivities and affirmed the important role they play in their children's lives. Nine adults in attendance signed their "Family Involvement Commitment Cards" pledging to be more actively involved with their children's lives on a daily basis.





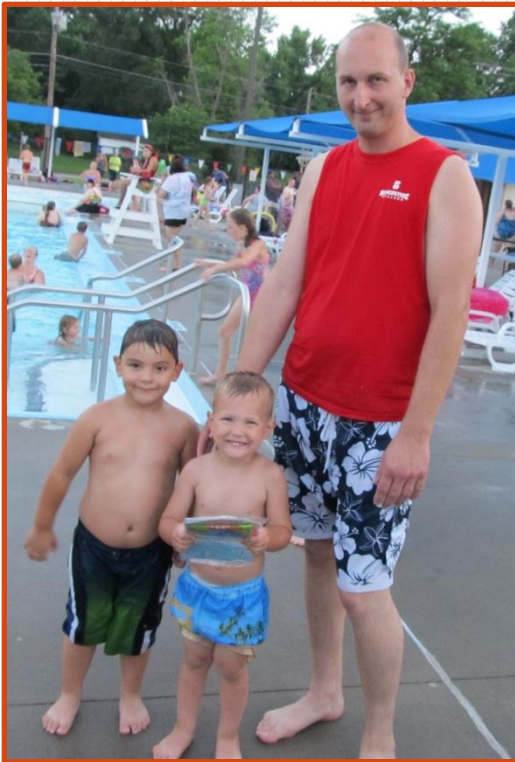
Montgomery Housing Authority, Montgomery, AL (MHA) hosted its 2nd Annual Father's Day Celebration themed "Reconnecting Dads with their Family" at Gibbs Village East on June 15, 2013. Over 200 proud parents and children were in attendance for the two-hour long event which featured grilled burgers and hot dogs, games, arts and crafts, a card making station for children, music from DJ Art, line dancing, giveaways, and resources.

Taking it to the Streets—a grassroots anti-violence organization founded by a former resident of Gibbs Village East, provided eleven volunteers, food and paper products and shared their message of loving thy neighbor. Gigi's Cupcakes donated dozens of their decadent cupcakes which were a huge hit with the dads.

Attending agencies included Montgomery Aids Outreach which provided free HIV testing, contraception, and information on safe sex; The Montgomery County Department of Public Health which also provided free contraception, and information on diabetes, obesity, heart attack, stress, and stroke; The Girl Scouts of Central Alabama which assisted the children with making special Father's Day bracelets; Pink and Pearls for Girls which provided an etiquette activity for children and registration to its youth empowerment program; The Council on Substance Abuse which provided information on drug abuse prevention and treatment; United Health which provided goodie bags with toiletries, candies, and literature on health programs; Viva Health which provided free gift items along with information on their health insurance plans for seniors; Stop Smoking Alabama which provided literature on smoking cessation assistance; Family Guidance Center of Alabama which provided information and referral for their Parenting Matters Fatherhood Program; and Peace in the Streets which canvassed Gibbs Village East wishing residents a Happy Father's Day and providing assistance through their stop the violence campaign.

Participants did not want the celebration to end, and it was extended an extra hour. In the extra hour the dance contest and girls vs. boys kickball game was the highlight of the day. The fathers reported that they were happy to have had an opportunity to spend meaningful, quality time with their family and look forward to attending next year. MHA was proud to offer this event. We hope it serves as an annual platform for absent dads to form a stronger bond and commitment to their children, creating a better outcome for all.

The **Housing Authority of the City of Nevada, Nevada, MO** event in June was a follow up event from their February Father/Daughter Dance. Partnering again with the Parks and Recreation Department, they had an estimated 275 in attendance at the Float n Flick where they showed Daddy Day Care!

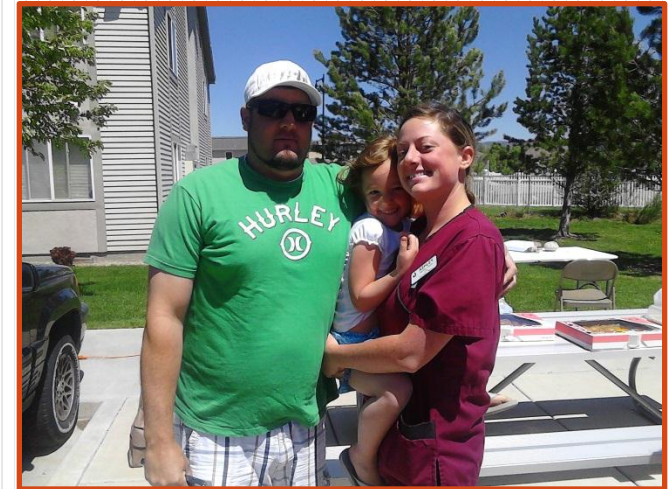


The **Rockford Housing Authority, Rockford, IL** partnered with the Rockford Park District, Boys and Girls Club, New Zion Church and Jesus Walkstour to host the 500 Father's Barbeque Family Fun Day. The event consisted of Father's Day wishes for community growth and celebration from RHA's CEO, Ron Clewer, and New Zion's Minister, Brandon Russell. The park area was chosen to connect with our residents and community in the Ellis Heights area of the city. The RHA has a Choice Neighborhood Planning grant for this area. RHA families and residents enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Activities included: a basketball tournament, family games, crafts with children and t-shirts for all participants. The children were able to make keepsake key chains to give to their fathers.

All participants shared messages of peace that will be added to an ongoing "peace chain" that links the city of Rockford. Our event was the first step to create these peaceful messages of hope that will be united with those throughout the city. Hot dogs, chips, water and cupcakes topped off our celebration with a service provided by New Zion Church. An estimated 250-300 residents and community residents attended.



The **Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation, Salida, CO** “Donuts with Dad” was the theme for Father’s Day 2013 initiative at Riverbend Apartment complex on June 5, 2013. They registered in May to participate and despite the late registration, short planning period, events being new to their tenants, and battling the wind they felt that the 15-20 participants was a great turnout and deemed the event a success. Children and adults decorated picture frames and made cards for Father’s Day gifts. Response from local agencies was beyond outstanding. They brought, emailed or had literature ready for the event. Their event resulted in establishing contact with Early Childhood Council in Chaffee County which will begin collaboration with referrals, services and resources that will benefit their tenants.



The **McMinnville Tennessee Housing Authority, McMinnville, TN** hosted two separate Father’s Day Events. The first was a combination Mother and Father’s Day Event for all the children enrolled in the Hamilton Street homework club. Children came early and selected small gifts for their mother and/or father, wrapped the gifts, then made cards. Parents joined the group for lunch and speakers including the Mayor of McMinnville, Jimmy Haley. There were over 100 persons present. The Cope Street and Morrison youth groups held a combined Father’s Day event on June 15 at Rocket Ball Park immediately behind the Cope Street Resident Center. About 67 attended this event. Mayor Haley attended and Harry Green did a short talk about the importance of fathers. There was a cook out, door prizes for parents and a scavenger hunt. This provided an opportunity to strengthen the relationships among fellow parents and help everyone create more of a community bond.

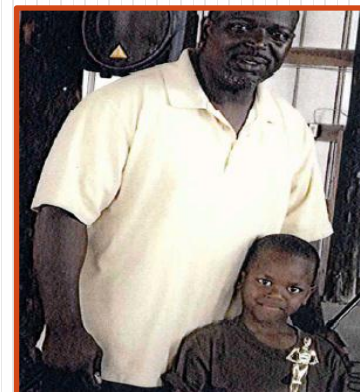
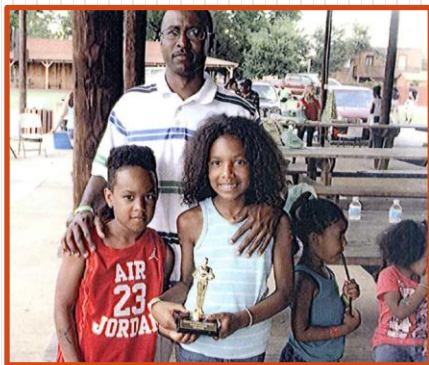
Biloxi Housing Authority, Biloxi, MS held its 3rd Annual Fatherhood Initiative Celebration on Saturday, June 15 at the Beatrice Brown Community Center. The goal was to inspire an atmosphere within the Public Housing Authority and local communities in which fathers could gain child development and sustainable life skills while participating in an array of educational, recreational and social events. This event was filled with good times for all in attendance which included food, drinks, games, vendors and door prizes. Biloxi Housing Authority employees and residents, along with other volunteers from faith based organizations attended. Greater Grace Apostolic Assembly cooked the food and supervised games such as volleyball, duck race and a spacewalk. Volunteers from Cedar Lake Christian Assembly sponsored a super slide and face painting.



Donations were given by Walgreens Pharmacy, Greater Grace Apostolic Assembly, Cedar Lake Christian Assembly, Regis Salon of Biloxi, Grand Casino, Hartz Chicken of Ocean Springs, Palace Casino, Margaritaville Casino, Palace Grill of Gulfport, VFW 5699 of Ocean Springs, Wal-Mart Supercenter. There was also a brief program in which BHA's resident council organizations participated. Their guest speaker was Ward 2 Councilman Flex Gines. His topic was "the importance of fathers/ father figures." It was a day of fun for the entire family but the focus was on the fathers.



Winder Housing Authority, Winder, GA partnered with Bethlehem Church to hold their Father/Father Figure Celebration on Saturday, June 15. “What we’ve tried to do is connect fathers and children together,” said WHA resident services manager Theresa Stewart, who spearheaded the local celebration. “With what’s going on in public housing, a lot of fathers are missing from their families. Some of the children hardly see male figures so we’re hoping they can get involved.” In preparation for the event, they used a number of communication vehicles such as newsletters, flyers (also published in local newspapers) and a recorded message to broadcast the event to their 325 residents. Kids enjoyed pony rides, games, flag football, raffles and food and drink; while free haircuts donated by a local hair salon and information on jobs and obtaining a GED were some of the resources offered to the men. Brand Bank provided financial literacy information, and a push up contest involving fathers with their sons. They also provided Zumba and exercise with the families, and gave out gift cards for food and book stores. Speakers included Mary Sims: The many hats fathers wear; Sande Bailey: Statistics of missing fathers from the home; Winder Police Chief Dennis Dorsey: The importance of fathers/what being a father really means. The event featured a number of father figures from the community to look up to, including representatives from the Boy Scouts, the National Guard, Project Barrow, local churches and local organizations, including the Brotherhood Club. Awards were handed out for top placers for the “What Father Means To Me” children’s poster contest. Many youths through the WHA through the Boys & Girls Club participated in the event. Firefighters were just one of many serving the community on hand for the celebration. Other activities included a hot dog eating contest, bean bag toss, sack race, obstacle course, limbo, musical chairs, bounce house and bungee jumping. Free food was provided by the Bethlehem Church.



Casper Housing Authority, Casper WY

A Celebration of Families 2013 was a HUGE success! 1,200 people attended and were able to connect with their families, food, and resources within the Casper community. "It was the first time for Wyoming. The idea behind the event was to encourage fathers to stay engaged and we wanted to let them know that they're appreciated. It was also an opportunity to talk about families. We have a lot of non-traditional families in a boom town; a lot of single moms, single dads. We wanted to get families out and spending the day with the kids," said Casper Housing Authority Director Kim Summerall-Wright. Festivities included a pancake breakfast, flea market, midday barbecue, three live bands, a magician, laser tag, inflatables and Max the Monkey.

Living statues dramatized the day's theme: the impact on families when fathers aren't present. Clif McCrady organized the actors involved in this live theater presentation. "When you're dealing with poverty," McCrady said, "it's hard to get people to actually notice. It's not because they don't want to see that somebody's poor or someone is in a homeless situation, it's because they're taught that you don't stare at somebody when you think things are going bad. But when it's a statue, it's expected for you to stare." McCrady hopes to provide a channel for people to explore and discuss living with the impact of no father.



Photo Credit: JC Horton Photography

June 8, 2013, The **Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Alexandria, VA (ARHA)** along with its partners: The Alexandria Department of Recreation and Cultural Activities, The Arts Commission, Alexandria City Public Schools, DASH Bus, Northern Virginia Urban League and The Campagna Center teamed up to host a special Father's Day event at its' 4th Annual Youth Arts Festival that was held at George Washington Middle School, Alexandria, Virginia.

The Father's Day Celebration was a Hoop It up Basketball Tournament for Fathers, Sons and Daughters. This was a great community building event bringing people from across Alexandria. Twenty (20) teams entered that consisted of 6 players per team: 2 adults and 2 children (boys and girls between the age of 9 – 16) played with each adult parent. Each team was guaranteed a minimum of two games. The tournament was organized into two divisions: Division 1- ages 9 to 12 and Division 2 – ages 13 to 16.

Washington Redskin Coach Keith Burns (formerly with the Denver Broncos) stopped by with his family to watch the games. Keith's daughter Danielle who attends Fordham University and plays basketball for the Fordham Rams joined the tournament. Awards were given to the winning teams placing 1st and 2nd place in both divisions.

Team HUD joined in on the fun, assisting Maria Queen, (the coffee can lady) HUDite and artist.

