



COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Connection

Where Have the Fathers Gone? by Aaron Powell, Co-Director

When asked to identify the greatest threat to America, former President George W. Bush responded, "The deterioration of the family." Nowhere does this seem more evident than when we see statistics like the following:



In 2011, 11.7 million families in the US were headed by a single parent, 85.2% of which were headed by a female. (US Census Bureau)

In 2011, there were 2.3 million women with children under the age of 18 who were unemployed. Single mothers account for more than half — 1.2 million — of the total number of unemployed mothers. (US Census Bureau)

These statistics make me cringe when I think about the overwhelming task women face when trying to raise a family as both mother and father. No matter how great of a job they do, there still remains an almost irreplaceable void in the children's lives. The children may never be able to identify the hole in their lives, but it is there. Without the care and compassion of others, these children have an unfortunate likelihood of being deficient in skills needed to grow up healthy and successful. Studies have shown that children from these environments are more likely to demonstrate at-risk behaviors in many areas:

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes – 5 times the average. (US Dept. Of Health/Census)
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average. (Fathersunite.org)
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Center for Disease Control)
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes – 14 times the average. (Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26)
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average. (National Principals Association Report)

Satan is having a field day within the American family and it is hard not to feel helpless when standing on the edge of the divide trying to build a bridge across. With the current state of our nation, it is vitally important that the Body of Christ stand in the gap for these women and children. These kids eventually grow up and start families of their own. I can say from my own experience of growing up with an absent father, they need mentors to model the love of Christ for them so that they can then model the same when they, too, become parents. We can start this process of healing by being intentional with our efforts to reach the fatherless homes within our own community.

One way Community Ambassadors endeavors to help these families and encourage fathers is through our upcoming HEROES initiative starting in 2013. To learn more about this effort, please read the HEROES article on the back page.

HEROES

Coming
in
2013

HELPING FATHERS & SONS FIND THEIR SUPERPOWERS

In 2013, Community Ambassadors will be launching HEROES, a father-son initiative focused on supporting men who want to be the very best dad they can be. First and foremost, we believe that in order to be a real hero in life, fathers must first be heroes at home. Not to mention, what boy isn't looking for a superhero to model after?

Pastors and church leaders, please help us stand by the men in our community who desire to be responsible fathers and who are faithful to their families. We need more heroes in our community! Our goal is to raise awareness and give opportunity for fathers and their sons to engage in activities that encourage relationship and growth.

Our first HEROES event is scheduled for Friday, January 18th, at Parmatown Mall. This will be a free event that will include finger foods and games, including a paper airplane contest that is bound to be loads of fun! If your organization would like to participate with this initiative in any way, please contact us by email at contact@comamb.org or by phone at 216-200-7030.

PASTORS' COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE UPDATE

A big thanks to all of the pastors and leaders who contributed to the Round Table discussion in November at the Parma Area Family Collaborative office.

The meeting served to bring awareness to area churches of what needs are currently challenging our community. It also was to identify assets that are present within the church community in order to effectively pair the available resources to legitimate needs. While, ultimately, this endeavor is a monumental task and one that would require more than just one meeting, we did, nevertheless, begin the dialogue.

The feedback we received from those in attendance was very positive. We are eager to keep the discussions going, as all great things begin with a conversation. That said, the next Round Table meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, at 8:30 am. More details will be sent out closer to that date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18, Friday - 7:00 - 9:00pm

HEROES - Father & Sons Night at Parmatown Mall, next to Payless Shoes

January 18, Friday - 7:30 - 9:30am

C/B/S Partnership Meeting @ Parma Health Education Center, 7300 State Rd., Parma

February 6, Wednesday - 8:30 - 10:00am

Pastors' Round Table @ Parma Area Family Collaborative, 11212 Snow Rd., Parma

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

THE COM AMB TEAM!



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