



BUILDING A FOUNDATION TO SERVE FATHERS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Organization profile

Wiregrass Hope Group is a resource for extending hope and healing to individuals and families by offering practical assistance, addressing emotional needs, and encouraging spiritual growth. Through faith-based and secular programs, Wiregrass Hope Group seeks to positively impact families throughout the Wiregrass community. Wiregrass Hope Group offers Marriage and Pre-Marriage Programs, Pregnancy Programs and Services, Character and Relationship Education, a Fatherhood Program, and Women’s Counseling.

The Challenge

Wiregrass Hope Group came to a realization that fatherless homes were a cause of many of the problems in its community. However, they did not have the infrastructure or programs to address the need to support fathers and encourage father involvement. In 2005, they started handing out information to fathers, but the impact was limited because they were not “set up” to work with fathers.

The Solution

For starters, Wiregrass Hope Group received a capacity-building grant from NFI to help them build their infrastructure and add the programs they would need to begin effective, intentional outreach to dads. Through the capacity building training and technical assistance provided by NFI, Wiregrass Hope Group added a full-time fatherhood coordinator to its staff, went through the Father Friendly Check-up™, and began applying for grants in its community. The lessons from the Father Friendly Check-up™ led the organization to start adding the specific fatherhood curricula it would need to build a substantial initiative.

NFI’s 24/7 Dad™ curriculum in particular was helpful in forming the foundation of their fatherhood program.

The Benefits

First, Wiregrass Hope Group was able to build the foundational infrastructure it needed to effectively serve fathers. Second, through the 24/7 Dad program, they were able to start measuring impact on the dads they served, specifically around their knowledge of child development and child care, their self-awareness, and their overall involvement in their children’s lives.

Across their community, they were able to set up a referral system so that organizations across the community could help each other by sending dads to the various programs they might need. The career center, hospital, church, and prison began referring dads to Wiregrass, building a more tight-knit support network in the community.

Now, the fatherhood program is embedded into the organization’s budget each year.

NFI Products and Services Used

- [24/7 Dad®](#)
- [Fatherhood Resource Kiosk](#)
- [Brochures](#)
- [Father Friendly Check-up™](#)
- [Certification College](#)

Services provided by other groups or companies

- Due to the help provided by the capacity-building grant, Wiregrass Hope Group was able to apply for additional funding from various foundations, including the Wiregrass Foundation and other local foundations.
- They receive referrals from prisons, hospitals, churches, career centers, and other community partners.