

DOUBLE DUTY DAD[®] GUIDE



Our Nation's Children Need You
to be a Double Duty Dad[®]!

Resources to Support You on Your Fatherhood Journey



The **FATHERHOOD** **RESOURCE** Center



The **NATION'S #1 PROVIDER** of skill-building resources to help dads get — **AND STAY** — involved.

www.fathersource.org



DOUBLE DUTY DAD® GUIDE

Table of Contents

About National Fatherhood Initiative®	4
About Double Duty Dad®	5
Getting Started	6
Double Duty Dad® Pledge	8
Mentoring Children.....	9
Mentoring Activities	13
Mentoring Boys	15
Mentoring Girls.....	18
Formal-Mentoring Organizations	21
Mentoring Fathers	24



About National Fatherhood Initiative®

National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, and committed fathers in their lives. Founded in 1994, NFI works to accomplish its mission through a “3E” strategy:



**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**

- **EDUCATING** and inspiring all people, especially fathers, through public awareness campaigns, research, and other resources.
- **EQUIPPING** fathers and developing leaders of national, state, and community fatherhood initiatives through curricula, training, resources, and technical assistance.
- **ENGAGING** every sector of society through strategic alliances and partnerships.

If you would like to learn more about the work of NFI or how you can support NFI's efforts to see more children raised with involved, responsible, and committed dads, please visit our website at www.fatherhood.org.

For a full listing of NFI's available resources, including curricula, interactive resources, and other materials, please visit www.fathersource.org.



About Double Duty Dad®

National Fatherhood Initiative's Double Duty Dad® program encourages experienced dads to provide support for children growing up without their fathers, by either mentoring a child or mentoring other fathers within their "circles of influence" (i.e. dads' social networks).



From dads who still care for their own children to seasoned "grandpas," fathers of all types can make a difference in the life of a child or another dad through Double Duty Dad®. Tapping into their reservoir of fatherhood knowledge, experienced dads volunteer their time to children or other fathers in need of guidance. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a difference; by giving as little as 15 minutes a day—about 12 hours per year—experienced dads can make a difference.

Whether reaching out to children who are close to their families or by volunteering time to work with other dads, Double Duty Dads® can help increase the chances of children succeeding in life and, in the process, help NFI combat father absence.



Getting Started

A Double Duty Dad® is an involved, responsible, and committed father!

- **INVOLVED**—he gives of his time and takes an interest in the well-being of the child or father he mentors.
- **RESPONSIBLE**—he is a good role model (in his personal and professional life) for a child or a father and takes care to keep those he mentors safe from physical and emotional danger.
- **COMMITTED**—he is reliable and keeps his promises.

What separates a Double Duty Dad® from a formal mentor (i.e. one who is screened and “matched” with a child by a formal-mentoring program) is that he is an “informal mentor.” Informal mentoring happens every day and in all kinds of situations. Coaches, teachers, neighbors, coworkers, and lots of other people informally mentor children and adults within their personal and professional networks. A Double Duty Dad® is an informal mentor for a child or another





father in the Double Duty Dad's personal (social) network—someone he already knows or to whom he's connected through a family member, friend, acquaintance, or organization.

As a Double Duty Dad®, National Fatherhood Initiative asks you to give a minimum of 12 volunteer hours in a year—as little as 15 minutes a day—to help a child or father in your circle of influence and who is in need of your guidance:

- Help a child that you know who is growing up—either permanently or temporarily—without his or her father.
- Help another father that you know by teaching him what you've learned and know about being an involved, responsible, and committed father.



To get started, sign the Double Duty Dad® pledge on the following page and start thinking about the context in which you might most enjoy serving as a Double Duty Dad®. Would you prefer to work with a child or another father? Which one are you most comfortable with? Can you think of a child or another father in your family, neighborhood, church, or workplace who might be in need? Do you have the desire and the energy to work with a child and a father at the same time?



Double Duty Dad® Pledge

I, _____,
have committed to being a Double Duty Dad®.

As a Double Duty Dad®, I will do my best to protect, nurture, and guide a child or father I choose to mentor. This pledge includes looking out for the child's or father's safety and well-being.

I will model involved, responsible, and committed fatherhood. I will lead by example and avoid activities or behaviors that would not set a good precedent for a child or father I choose to mentor.

I will keep my commitment to the child or father I choose to mentor, and I will strive to mentor with integrity.

I desire to never stop growing and learning how to be a better father, mentor, and friend to children and other fathers.

Signed: _____

Date: _____





Mentoring Children

Find Children in Your Circle of Influence

Do you know a child who is fatherless—either permanently or temporarily—due to his or her father’s military service, extended business travel, incarceration, or other situations that have separated the child from his or her father for an extended amount of time? Think about a child who is a member of your family, a member of a family that lives in your neighborhood, or a member of a family in your community of faith.



If you still have a child at home, think about your child’s friends, classmates, and teammates.

Can you identify one or more children who are growing up without a father (permanently or temporarily)? If you can’t think of a child right now, be intentional over the next week or two and look around for children in need of your guidance. After you identify some children, make a list of up to five children who will benefit having you as a mentor and list them below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Now that you have your list, decide how much time you have to commit to being a Double Duty Dad® this year. Choose one of the children on this list with whom you can realistically spend at least 12 hours this year. Even if a child on your list lives far away, explore ways that you could start building a relationship over the phone or through letters or e-mail. If possible, plan a visit for later in the year. Use the steps that follow to get started!

Get Permission

After you identify the child you want to mentor, the first step is to get consent from the child's mother or guardian. If you chose a child whose father is usually present, but just absent for a specific period of time, we suggest talking to the father about your role as well. Be very clear about your intentions. Tell the father that your desire is not to replace him but to support him by helping his child to learn and grow while the father is away.

Be very clear with the parent or guardian about the types of activities you would like to do with the child. It is very important to remember that even though you are an “experienced” dad that this is someone else's child growing up with someone else's rules. Families have their own standards—which may differ from your own—including the kind of behaviors in children that they tolerate, the types of food that are appropriate to eat, and what is appropriate to view on television and at the movies. Have a candid conversation with the child's parent or guardian about the guidelines that apply to your time together.



The second step is to plan what you will do with the child before every visit. Talk with the child or the child's parent or guardian about the kinds of activities that the child is interested in.



Plan Ahead

Remember that some of the activities that you and your children might have enjoyed might not be what today's children enjoy. Sure, there is value to opening a child up to new experiences (i.e. a child who's never been fishing might learn to appreciate and enjoy the sport), but there is also value, especially at the start of a mentoring relationship, to meet the child on his or her own "turf" and to show him or her that you care enough to learn about the child's likes and dislikes. Sometimes, children just want and need someone to listen to them.

Before the first and every subsequent visit, tell the child's parent or guardian how much time you plan to spend with the child. Remember, a child in a father-absent home might believe that his or her father never had enough time for them. This child might have been let down many times from one or more men to whom the child has looked to as a father figure. As a Double Duty Dad®, you want your role to be positive—not negative. So, as they say in the business world, it might be better to under-promise and over-deliver when it comes to how much time you can spend with the child.



It is vital that you keep your promises to the child and his or her parent or guardian. Do everything in your power to make your scheduled visits. If you must cancel, give the child and the parent or guardian as much advance notice as possible, and reschedule the visit as soon as possible, so that you don't evoke feelings of abandonment in the child. Explain why you can't make the visit and that it is not the child's fault. The further out you can plan your Double Duty Dad® time, the easier it will be for you to keep your commitments.



Save Your Advice for Later

Building a solid mentoring relationship takes time. In fact, research shows that the most effective mentoring relationships last at least one year. Your first and most vital job is to build trust between you and the child (and between you and the child's parent or guardian). Children don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. So don't rush to be the father the child never had, or rarely sees, by offering advice and guidance right off the bat. You'll know when you've reached a healthy level of trust with the child to start offering advice and guidance about life's small and big challenges. A good signal that the child is ready for your wisdom is when the child seeks you out for advice or asks you questions about the challenges that her or she is facing.

Be Safe and Smart

Protect yourself and the child you mentor. Practice "high touch" (touching only the child's shoulders or mid to upper back). Meet in public places so that there is never a question of impropriety. Consider having the child join you and your wife, or you and your other children, on outings or for dinner at your home. Be wise so that everyone feels safe.

Encourage, Encourage, Encourage

Every child needs encouragement! Encourage the child to keep trying in school, sports, music—whatever he or she wants to pursue. If the child shares a dream that you think is a bit unrealistic (e.g. visions of being a pro football player or movie star), encourage him or her to pursue the dream by staying in school, going to college, and getting work experience. Children need to feel like someone believes in them.

Sharpen Your Skills

Even the most seasoned major leaguers still take a few practice swings before heading to the batter's box. Has it been a while since you spent time with a child as young as the one you want to mentor? Never fear—National Fatherhood Initiative is here.

We have an extensive selection of resources for you on a variety of topics. Our Fatherhood Resource Center, FatherSOURCE™ (www.fathersource.org), has a huge selection of resources designed especially for dads that you can use in your role as a Double Duty Dad®. And besides, if you still have children at home, our resources will also help you to bone up on fathering your own children.





Mentoring Activities

You might already have some idea about the activities you want to do with the child. Nevertheless, here are some ideas to consider:

- Attend sporting events, or play sports together
- Visit a zoo, aquarium, or museum
- Go out for ice cream
- Send a card, e-mail, or letter, or make a 10-minute phone call to ask about the child's day
- Use a computer together to research something that the child is interested in
- Help the child with homework
- Make a meal together, or have lunch together
- Read together
- Go horseback riding
- Go to a worship service together





- Play miniature golf
- Go to the circus
- Attend a local carnival or festival
- Invite the child to a family dinner with you and your wife and family
- Go holiday gift shopping together
- Go fishing or boating
- Visit someone who works in a profession that your child is interested in
- Attend the child's school play, musical, recital, or sporting event
- Get a book of magic tricks and learn them together
- Teach the child a skill or sport
- Show the child where you work(ed) and what you do (or did) for a living
- Go to an ethnic restaurant to try new foods
- Go to an amusement park and invite one of the child's friends (or your own child) to tag along



Mentoring Boys

Many Double Duty Dads® will want to mentor boys, so we've included some advice for working with boys, and some information on the national crisis impacting boys in this country.

Psychologist Michael Thompson says we need “a better understanding of the psychology of boys.” In the outstanding PBS special *Raising Cain*, he concludes:

1. Boys, as much as girls, have an emotional life.
2. Boys have their own way of learning.
3. Boys need to have a father or father-figure, an adult male who can model manhood and teach boys that there are many ways to be a man, and that being a man means being responsible, caring, and emotionally available.



Tips for Double Duty Dads® Mentoring Boys

1. Provide a safe place, free of danger—a place where a boy does not need to be afraid and can be real. Protect him from graphic violence in video games and in the media.
2. Don't stifle a boy's imagination.
3. Help a boy to build an emotional vocabulary (angry, sad, frustrated, etc.) and to connect the dots between how he feels and real or potential actions. For example, anger turned outward can become yelling, and turned inward can turn into depression. Help him to become self-aware.



4. Teach a boy healthy habits—like the importance of physical activity (e.g. sports, exercise, etc.), eating right, and good hygiene.
5. Teach and encourage a boy to learn a skill (e.g. chess, basketball, music, etc.) that will help him to feel good about himself and to earn respect from others.
6. Set high academic standards for a boy and help him to reach them. As Bill Cosby said, “No one ever rose to low expectations.”
7. Boys, especially, are deeply susceptible to being shamed. Raise the bar without lowering the boom. Be compassionate in your interactions with a boy.
8. Use a boy’s negative behavior as a starting point to talk with him about feelings and intentions.
9. Teach a teen-aged boy that marriage is desirable and beneficial for adult men. (Use NFI’s brochure, “The Seven Benefits of Marriage for Men” for data points.)





10. Teach a boy about involved, responsible, and committed fathering. Encourage him to delay fatherhood until marriage. (Research proves that marriage is the best, safest, and healthiest environment for a child to be born into and raised.) Make use of NFI's resources such as *Boyz2Dads*™ to help in these discussions.

11. Help a boy to understand that money comes from work. Help him find opportunities to earn money (e.g. chores, yard work, part-time jobs, etc.). This experience will help him to learn the value of work and a healthy appreciation for its rewards. Teach him how important it is to be



responsible with money by showing him how to budget for the things he wants or needs, and how to save for the future.

12. Emphasize the importance of spirituality, proper morals, and service to others. Remind a boy that the world is much larger than his world of interests. Show him how his service to family, friends, community, and the world is a very valuable use of his time, talents, and financial resources.



Mentoring Girls

You may choose to be a Double Duty Dad® in a girl's life. You may be her uncle, grandfather, or a close family friend. Keep in mind the general advice in this guide for mentoring all children, including the suggested activities. Also remember the earlier tips about involving your spouse or other children in the time you spend with a girl.



Compared to boys, girls need no less the attention from and the caring presence of an involved, responsible, and committed Double Duty Dad®. Positive interaction with supportive and responsible males can help young girls to develop healthy ideas about the kind of men they should date and marry, and can help them to establish a healthy sense of value and self-worth.

Tips for Double Duty Dads® Mentoring Girls

1. Provide a safe place, free of danger—a place where a girl does not need to be afraid and can be real. Protect her from the graphic violence in video games and in the media.
2. Help a girl to focus on inner beauty and strength of character—what is on the inside, not the outside, is the most important aspect of her beauty and self-worth. She has probably been bombarded with images from the media that a girl must look, act, and dress in a certain way to be accepted by others. Help her to find and appreciate her internal beauty and self-worth.



3. Many girls like (and need) to talk, so listen without giving advice. When you listen to her, she will feel appreciated, respected, and cared for. Though it might be tempting to give her lots of advice when she talks, remember that her primary need is for someone to listen to her.



4. Be a gentleman to her—no matter how old she is. Girls are sometimes choose a life partner who acts like her father or the primary father-figure in her life. Open the door for her, help her carry something that's too heavy for her to carry on her own, and help her put on her jacket before you sit down to dinner. These acts of kindness will help her learn how a gentleman should treat her.
5. Help a girl to understand the value and importance of a healthy marriage as the basis for a mature long-term relationship between a man and a woman. Help her to understand that boys who care about her should seek a long-term relationship with her and not pressure her to have sex.
6. Teach a girl to be physically active and involved in sports. Play catch, basketball, softball, soccer, etc. Physically active girls are less likely to experience obesity, drop out of school, get pregnant outside of marriage, or put up with abuse.
7. Teach a girl, especially when she is young, that eating is healthy and that she is beautiful just the way she is. Companies spend billions to convince women that they don't look "right." Pay close attention to whether she's buying advertisers' messages to lose weight and be thin and whether she is reacting to these messages in an unhealthy way.



8. Encourage a girl to develop skills or areas of knowledge (e.g. music, volleyball, drama, mathematics, and cooking) that will help her to become more self-confident and that will earn her respect from others.
9. Emphasize the value of education and academic achievement. Encourage a girl to finish school and help her plan for college and career goals.
10. Teach a girl that involved, responsible, and committed mothers and fathers play a critical role in the lives of children.
11. Help a girl to understand the relationship between work and money. Help her find opportunities to earn money (e.g. chores, yard work, part-time jobs, etc.). This experience will help her to learn the value of work and a healthy appreciation for its rewards. Teach her how important it is to be responsible with money by showing her how to budget for the things she wants or needs, and how to save for the future.
12. Emphasize the importance of spirituality, proper morals, and service to others. Let a girl know that the world is much larger than her interests, and that she can make a meaningful contribution through service to family, friends, and her community.





Formal-Mentoring Organizations



If you want to become a formal mentor—either instead of or in addition to becoming a Double Duty Dad®—there are many great formal-mentoring organizations that match volunteer mentors with children (often called “mentees”). Each organization has their own way of doing things—including the way they screen potential mentors, train volunteers, assign duties to mentors, monitor mentor-mentee relationships, etc.

National Fatherhood Initiative encourages you to research the formal-mentoring opportunities available in your community. If you work with a formal-mentoring organization, you will have to abide by their rules, regulations, and requirements.

Formal-Mentoring Organizations and Resources

Mentor®: The National Mentoring Partnership

Considered a one-stop shop for information on formal-mentoring programs, this organization “helps children by providing a public voice, developing and delivering resources to mentoring programs nationwide and promoting quality for mentoring through standards,



cutting-edge research and state of the art tools.” The organization collaborates with more than 5,000 local mentoring programs across the country. Visit their website to connect to a formal-mentoring program in your community. www.mentoring.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters International (BBBS)

BBBS is the oldest and largest formal youth-mentoring organization in the United States. BBBS matches caring adults with children, ages five-to-18 years old, in one-to-one relationships. www.bbbsa.org

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

The Boy Scouts provide quality, local youth programs for boys of all ages. www.scouting.org

Amachi

Amachi involves “People of faith mentoring children of promise” who have one or both parents under some form of state or federal supervision. Through Amachi, the strengths of mentoring and congregational volunteers are brought together.

www.amachimentoring.org

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA describes its court-appointed volunteers’ objective as “to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don’t get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.” Furthermore, “for many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.”

www.nationalcasa.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Boys and Girls Clubs offer recreation, companionship, supervision, and more to kids on the streets. Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by caring about them and instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence. www.bgca.org

America’s Promise

Former Secretary of State General Colin Powell’s national volunteer movement exists because today’s young people face incredible



challenges. The database contains examples of innovative programs, projects, and initiatives that are being implemented to serve children and youth in communities nationwide. www.americaspromise.org

The National Mentoring Center

A resource center for strengthening mentoring programs for youth. www.nwrel.org/mentoring

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA)

A national member of the YMCA of the USA, ASYMCA works with the Department of Defense to offer essential programs such as childcare, hospital assistance, spouse support services, food services, computer training classes, health and wellness services, and holiday meals. www.asymca.org

Harvard Mentoring Project

Harvard Mentoring Project promotes the growth of the mentoring movement with the goal of linking large numbers of young people with adult mentors.

www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/harvard-mentoring-project/

Other groups and resources to consider that might provide assistance in identifying formal-mentoring opportunities:

Leadership Groups

Community Colleges

Corporate volunteer councils

Fraternal organizations
(e.g. Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, etc.)

Corporate retiree volunteer programs, or senior centers

Area agencies on aging and programs that mobilize seniors
(e.g. senior corps programs)

Places of worship



Mentoring Fathers

Reach Fathers in Your Circle of Influence

Another unique aspect about Double Duty Dad® is the informal mentoring of another father. You probably know dozens of other fathers. These men are in your “circle of influence” and are great places to start looking for another father to help.

Think about a father who is part of your extended family, a father in your neighborhood, a father who attends your place or worship, or a father who is a coworker. Have any of these men mentioned, even in passing, that they have challenges with their children? Remember that fathers—and men in general—are not as likely as women to open up about their parenting struggles. So, you may have to become a “private investigator” of sorts to figure out if there is a way for you to help a father, one-on-one.



On the other hand, you might have a friend who’s been forthcoming and brutally honest about his parenting struggles—perhaps he has a teenager who’s using drugs or a child who’s acting up in school. Are these problems you’ve already lived through as a seasoned father? Or are these challenges that, using some of NFI’s resources, you could read and learn more about in order to help this other father?

After you find a father to mentor, you don’t have to tell him that he’s your “volunteer project.” Indeed, it might be best to simply enter into an informal-mentoring relationship without mentioning the word



“mentoring.” He might be reluctant to open up if he thinks you want to help him because he’s “in need.” Approach him as a friend. Let the mentoring part come naturally as your relationship builds. As part of your initial approach, simply tell him that you’ve had some experience, as a father, and that you would welcome the opportunity to talk with him about what he is going through. Chances are when approached in this non-threatening way, he will welcome your support and friendship.

Crossing Generational Lines

If there is a large gap in age between you and the father you want to mentor, keep in mind that different generations have different ways of viewing the world. Moreover, you’ll need to remember that his children will be from a generation even farther removed from your generation. You will need to be tuned in to these generational differences to understand how he sees his role as a father (it may be different from your view) and the challenges of parenting someone of his child’s generation.

The world of fathering is rapidly changing. Men are becoming fathers at older ages than ever before. It’s not uncommon today to encounter many fathers in their 40s and 50s with toddlers running around the house. The role of the father has changed dramatically in recent years. The average amount of time that fathers dedicate to the primary care of their children has increased. So too has the amount of time they dedicate to doing housework. Before you give advice to a much younger father, take the time to listen to and explore his world and the world of his child. After you understand where he’s coming from, you’ll be in a better place to provide useful guidance that he’ll accept.

Ways to Reach and Help Fathers with NFI’s Help

Get and Share Resources

NFI has everything you need to mentor another father! Whether you plan to share your fathering experience one-on-one or hope to run a support group in your town, NFI is your one-stop shop for what you need! You and the father you’re mentoring can sign up for our free Dad E-mail™ and join the Dads Club™.



NFI's resources can help you to do “double duty” in two ways. Use them to sharpen and bone up on your fathering knowledge and skills (especially if you have adult children) and share them with a father you decide to mentor. NFI has group-based programs, interactive CD-ROM and DVD-based programs, guides, and brochures that apply to almost every kind of dad you can think of. Visit our online store at www.fathersource.org for descriptions and pricing.

Reach Out to New Fathers

If you have connections in the healthcare arena—or have a special interest in working with new fathers—run one or more of our Doctor Dad® Workshops in your community (e.g. in a hospital or for a non-profit that serves families that are expecting children or that have infants or toddlers). You can also distribute NFI's brochures, guides, and interactive resources such as our New Dad's Pocket Guide™, Help Me Grow Guides™, or When Duct Tape Won't Work™, an interactive CD-ROM for expectant and new dads that helps them to navigate the pre-natal and post-natal periods.

Reach Fathers at Your Workplace

Talk to your human resources (HR) department about starting a “working dads” club or lunch group. Ask if you can bring together working fathers who can learn from each other. Encourage your HR department to purchase resources from www.fathersource.org such as our Dad's Pocket Guide™, New Dad's Pocket Guide™, Help Me Grow Guides™, or 24/7 Dad® *Interactive*, a CD-ROM that provides guidance on how to be a great father around the clock. You could even consider running an NFI program such as 24/7 Dad® or a Doctor Dad® Workshop, or any of our FatherTopics™ Workshops. Encourage your coworkers to sign up for NFI's free Dad E-mail™ to receive fathering tips several times a week and to become Double Duty Dads®.

Reach Fathers in Your Community

Tell other fathers in your community about Double Duty Dad® and encourage them to sign up. Meet quarterly to share ideas for mentoring activities, and the successes and challenges of being a Double Duty Dad®. You could also consider running any of NFI's programs or workshops and distribute any of the resources we mentioned earlier.



Reach Fathers in Your Church

If you are a Christian, talk with your minister about using the 24/7 Dad Power Hour™ program to mentor men at your church. This DVD-based program is ideal for a men's ministry. Use this Christian-based program with your regular church men's group or as an outreach tool to bring other men who are fathers into the church. Visit www.fatherhood.org/powerhour to find out more.

Reach Out to Incarcerated Fathers

Interested in reaching out to incarcerated fathers? NFI has a program for them, too—InsideOut Dad®. Some correctional facilities allow volunteers to come in and run the program. Contact the administrators at a local facility to find out what you need to do to facilitate the program.

Find an Existing Fatherhood Program and Volunteer

Identify an existing fatherhood program in your community and volunteer to work with the fathers they serve. There are an increasing number of fatherhood programs across the country that operate on small budgets and, as a consequence, welcome volunteers. If you don't have the time to commit to running your own program, identify an organization that works with fathers and ask whether they could use you as a volunteer. Ideas to pitch include: helping them facilitate a fatherhood program they run, helping them hand out fatherhood resources at a community event that attracts fathers, or contributing any of your other personal or professional skills or talents to their work.

Start a Fatherhood Program in Your Community

If you're really ambitious, consider starting a fatherhood program or organization. Some people we know have asked a local non-profit to sponsor a new fatherhood program or organization (e.g. providing an office for an individual and space in which to conduct an NFI program such as 24/7 Dad®) until the program or organization can support itself with its own funding. In some cases, a local non-profit has provided "seed" money to help a new program or organization in its infancy. You can learn more about starting a fatherhood program by using NFI's *Guide to Strengthening Fatherhood in Your Community*™. You can or purchase a downloadable a copy of this guide at www.fatherhood.org/gsfcl



Tell Us Your Story

Write for NFI

We've been around for 20 years. We've seen stories of victory and stories of defeat when it comes to fathers and families. Through it all, we know that fatherhood changes everything.

Your story makes a difference...to you...to your family...to your community. Whether you've downloaded a free ebook from us, signed up for our email, donated to our mission, and/or started a fatherhood program...we want to know your why. Why do you care about fatherhood and father absence?

With 24 million children growing up in America without their father in the home. You are making the difference. We want to spotlight you and help motivate others by your story.

What's it take to write your story? Well, a lot, really. It takes you and your time. Oh, and some guidelines that our Director of Marketing and Communications spent hours making up just to make his job easier! Interested? Behind the form to the right are the magna carta, the holy grail, the (insert your preferable term to denote "full") guidelines for writing and telling your story in such a way that we can more easily publish it.

Your commitment to fatherhood changes everything; we know, because we've read other stories about it.

Visit www.fatherhood.org/tell-us-your-story and share your amazing fatherhood story!