Responsible Fatherhood Programs

An Initiative of Matrix Human Services
*Mission: Break generational cycle of familial poverty in Detroit & other communities
*Over a dozen programs; 40 locations; 25,000 families & individuals annually
*Largest Head Start/Early Head Start grantee in Detroit; up to 2,000 low-income families with children 0-5 years old
*Focus on parental empowerment

*Matrix Human Services
* Monthly “Donuts & Dads” Roundtables at H/S centers
* Upcoming “Dad’s Club”: NFI’s 24/7 Dads Curricula
* Father’s Basketball League
* Job Fairs
* Annual Fatherhood Conference: WCCCD/NW campus; February 13, 2016 sponsored by Partnership for Dads
* Planned expansion of communities fatherhood programming

* Matrix Head Start
Fatherhood Programs
* The scientific branch dealing with Human Actions & Behavior

* 3 Main elements for human motivation
  * Autonomy - freedom to make own decisions
  * Mastery - command over something, knowledge, skill; key link with autonomy - to want to be better at something that matters
  * Purpose - a reason for doing something that matters - intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation

* With all three present: will motivate fathers to become better dads; enroll in a program; habitually attend a program

* Behavioral Science*
* NFI: #1 provider of fatherhood resources in U.S. since 1994

* "24/7 Dad®: developed by team of nationally/internationally recognized fathering & parenting experts*

* 12+ two hour sessions; five characteristics to be a great dad 24/7

* All cultures, races, religions, backgrounds

* Goal: awareness of himself as a man and his significance to his children/family with skills

* National Fatherhood Initiative “24/7 Dad®”
* Some Sobering Statistics:
  * Nationally 1 in 3 (25 million) children live absent of their biological father; in Detroit...it’s 2 in 3* (95,265)
  * Over the past thirty years, the rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers.**
  * High-crime neighborhoods are characterized by high concentrations of families abandoned by fathers.**
  * State-by-state analysis by Heritage scholars indicates that a 10 percent increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent homes leads typically to a 17 percent increase in juvenile crime.**
  * The rate of violent teenage crime corresponds with the number of families abandoned by fathers.**

* The Father Factor: “[Exists]... in nearly all of the social issues facing America today”*
  * Poverty, Emotional/Behavioral Problems, Education achievement, Child Health, Crime, Incarceration, Child Abuse, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Childhood Obesity, Suicides

*Source: 2010-2012 U.S. Census Bureau ACS
**“Root Cause of Violent Crime...”, Heritage Foundation, Patrick Fagan, March 17, 1995

*The Vital Father Need*
* Recruit and Engage Absent Fathers ‘where they are’ (e.g. F.O.C., non-profits, churches, barber shops, etc.)
* Encourage their awareness and self-worth as responsible fathers
* Promote a comradery as fathers establishing their “legacy” for their sons and daughters
* Teach necessary fathering skills for child age-appropriate groups
* Educate mothers on benefits of responsible fatherhood engagement with their children

*Some Lessons Learned*
“CHILDREN NEED BOTH RESPONSIBLE PARENTS FOR BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOMES DESPITE PARENTAL LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, DIVORCE OR SEPARATIONS...in most cases.”

...M.B. Davis, Dads of Michigan, 2001