



Quotes for Fathers Day:

“Any man can be a father but it takes someone special to be a DAD”!

“Dad, you’re someone to look up to no matter how tall I’ve grown”.

“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person.....he believed in me”.

“A hug can say what words cannot”.

Upcoming Events:

- June 6, 2013—Front Porch Project Refresher—York County Administration Center
- June 8, 2013—Fatherhood Initiative Event—Hall Manor Field, Harrisburg
- June 13-14, 2013—Youth Leadership Event—CWRC, Mechanicsburg

“It is a wise father that knows his child”. William. Shakespeare

JUNE 2013

Written by: Denise Hoffman



Families and Communities United Newsletter

ENGAGING FATHERS

While pondering what I should write about for our June newsletter, I thought “well, June 16th is Father’s Day and we’ve been doing some really great work to engage dads, why not write about dads”.

There was a two-day training I participated in recently called “Engaging Absent Fathers”. It was a wonderful training for county workers and their supervisors to make sure when they’re in the field working with families that they’re engaging dads. We have so many services for moms who are involved in children, youth and family agencies, but what about our dads? What services are available for them?

During this training, our trainees learned the importance of locating and engaging dads. By locating and engaging fathers, you can double a child’s support system, not only with dad, but with dad’s extended family members. By doubling a child’s support system, you could decrease the number of children in out-of-home placement. How

awesome would that be!! I’m not saying you won’t encounter any barriers or that’s it’s going to be easy but if you could prevent even one child from being removed from their family, wouldn’t it be worth it?

I’ve had the pleasure of working on the Engaging Father’s workgroup for two years and in that two years we created a brochure “Kids Need Dads”, we assisted with revising the training “Engaging Absent Fathers” to what will now be called “Building and Sustaining Father Engagement”. It’s the change of the times by revising this training and renaming this training to reflect the changes. We ARE engaging fathers and we need to SUSTAIN these engagement efforts. This training is provided by the PA Child Welfare Resource Center. We also created Judicial Bench Cards on Engaging Father’s which judges will use as a reference to engage dads when holding family court. Families and Communities United was able to contribute great feedback during the development of the bench cards.

It’s never too early or too late to involve fathers!

WHY KIDS NEED THEIR DADS

Most children desire a loving relationship with their father and when that relationship is lacking or non-existent, the child is more likely to be affected emotionally, developmentally, and financially. Children with absentee fathers tend to be more likely to be physically abused, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol and engage in drug use.

Studies show that children without dads are often more violent and aggressive, become involved in more

delinquent and criminal behavior, and perform more poorly in school.

When a dad exits a child’s life or drifts in and out, a child will feel rejected, insecure and may cause the child to have a hard time forming relationships. The child may feel that he/she is responsible for dad leaving. (“If only I behaved better”) Kids need their dads and dads need to be there for their kids.

Visit us on the Web! www.fcu.pitt.edu

