



CITIZEN FATHER PROJECT

Our mission

Fathers working together to support, educate and develop healthy, active fathers and to rebuild family and community values.

Who is a Citizen Father?

A man who is dedicated to his children and works to build a community that supports and develops healthy, active fathers.

The creation of the Citizen Father Project

In the summer of 2007, a group of high achieving fathers involved in the FATHER Project and several fatherhood professionals came together to start a citizen engagement and leadership development project. Our goal was to create a community action project to **impact the problem of too many fathers not being positively involved in the lives of children**. Together we developed an understanding of the problem in our own collective language and discussed the impact on our community. In 2008, we developed messages about the importance of healthy active fathers and identified key audiences. In 2009, we began to take action.

We are taking action through two key strategies:

- Deliver a series of ongoing community presentations to key audiences (current).
- Develop a documentary to deliver messages on a broad scale through various media (future).

We've taken our message to six key audiences:

- Fathers in the community
- Incarcerated fathers
- Mothers
- Youth
- Professionals
- Faith congregations



The basis of our work: The Families and Democracy Model

- See all personal problems as public issues too
- Look to family and community resources first
- See families and communities as producers, not just clients or consumers
- See professionals as citizens and partners, not just providers
- Let citizens drive programs rather than programs serving citizens
- Make sure every initiative reflects the local culture
- Grow leaders, and then more leaders
- Make all decisions democratically
- Go deep before taking action
- Think big, act practically, and let your light shine

What the community is saying about the Citizen Father Project

"I believe a lot of men just don't know what to do, so they don't do anything. These dads gave me hope." — Father in the community

"Words cannot express my gratitude ... I have learned more about dads over the past hour than I have my entire adult life. They helped me understand my past relationships and the men in my life, both past and present."
— Mother in the community

"They are amazing role models ..." — Mother in the community

"There is a true sense of enthusiasm and appreciation that the dads displayed in having an opportunity to give back ... and a strong sense that they're going to contribute." — Professional in the community

"I did not grow up with my dad and I always wondered why he chose not to be in my life. I have a better understanding that there are two sides to every story. I will make sure I don't make the same mistakes when I become a dad."
— Youth in the community

"I learned today that there is a "right and wrong time" to have a baby. The dads today helped me learn that being a parent is more difficult than I imagined, especially for young dads." — Youth in the community



Good fathers make great kids.



Partners of the Citizen Father Foundation

The Citizen Father Foundation offers an opportunity for fathers to develop as leaders, applying the personal lessons they've learned to positively impact the broader community. Established to empower fathers to overcome barriers that prevent them from supporting their children both economically and emotionally, the Citizen Father Foundation provides holistic services focused on personal development and enhancing parenting skills.

Originally launched as part of the FATHER Project in 1999, the Citizen Father Foundation continues the mission to support fathers in overcoming these challenges. Through partnerships and community engagement, the foundation strives to change the image of manhood and fatherhood in the urban community and beyond.



For more information, please contact:

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The mission of the FATHER PROJECT is to assist fathers in overcoming the barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally.

Website: www.citizenfather.org

*Funding is provided by The City of Minneapolis Partnership Engagement Fund projects Grant: (2024-00494)
These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability or religion*



Citizen Father Project

An initiative of the Citizen Father Foundation, Minnesota



Fathers changing the image of manhood and fatherhood in the urban community and beyond.



<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/93-3980640>