January 2013

A Message from the Executive Director - Morgan Streeter

Happy New Year!

I want to remind everyone again about our Annual Summit, “The Spirit of Fatherhood: Nurturing the Mind, Body and Soul of Fathers” being held at the Kelly Inn, January 28th-29th.

This idea of spirituality is nothing new. Kwanza, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, etc… all have observances in their “New Year” that are used to reinforce their traditions and history as well as promote families and respect for families. As we celebrate this New Year, I encourage all of you to see the benefit of Spirituality in your household and see it as something that strengthens us and the bond between our partners and our children. It’s this connection that helps revive our communities and gets us away from thinking about what is good for "me" and focus on what is good for my community.

So, please join us in exploring this aspect of familial relationships and how we can use Spirituality along with skill building and empowerment to help our families realize their potential.

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Annual Summit - “The Spirit of Fatherhood: Nurturing the Mind, Body and Soul of Fathers"

Keynote speakers include:
Ted Bowman, University of Minnesota (Family Education) and the University of St. Thomas (Social Work) - "Men, Fathers, Families and Losses: Spirituality and Grieving"
William Doherty, Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota and Director of the Citizen Professional Center - "Spiritual Development in Family Life"
Kent Nerburn, Author - "Searching for Dad in a Father-Starved World"
Tim Marx, Catholic Charities - "Staying True to Your Own Spirit while Respecting the Spirit in Others: Secularity, Spirituality, Common Ground and the Common Good"

Topics of interest:
-Development of spirituality in children and adults, and how fathers affect that development.
-Professionals will learn about how to approach the ethical boundaries around spirituality with respect and dignity.
-Discussion of those systems that seem to be barriers and show how they are actually supports for these fathers
-Child Support,
-Child Welfare
-Department of Corrections

Registration open at http://www.mnfathers.org
The event is being held January 28-29, 2013 at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud
Cost:
$175 non-MFFN member registration
$150 MFFN member registration (early bird until January 11, 2013)
$100 exhibitor fee

More registration information can be found on the website.

Interested in having an exhibit at the conference, contact Sarah Cheesman at scheesman@mnfathers.org

MFFN Board of Directors Election
MFFN has three new board members effective January 1, 2013. They are Tierre Webster, Clarence Jones and Miranda Harrison. Welcome to our new board members!

The following individuals will serve on the MFFN Executive Committee during 2013:
Lowell Johnson - Chairperson
RaeAnn Mayer - Vice Chairperson
Michael Harralson - Secretary
David Lipps - Treasurer

Conferences or Events of Interest:
- Partnering with Teen Parents

Partnering with Teen Parents is a two-day training, offered by Parents as Teachers, for all professionals who work with adolescent parents and offers constructive insights into teen parents, their children and the issues they all face. The revised curriculum, Partnering With Teen Parents, will be available in October and is required for this class. The event is February 6-7, 2013 and offers 13 professional development hours and/or 1.3 CEU credits. The training covers:

- developmental characteristics unique to adolescents, including adolescent brain development
- mutual influences and potential impacts of the parallel developmental needs of adolescents and young children
- information about child development, parent-child interaction, and family well-being
- practical parenting principles that contribute to healthy lifestyles for teen parents and their children
- techniques to enhance teen parents' feelings of confidence and competence and strategies to equip the adolescent's ongoing transition into adulthood while parenting
- strategies to address the special family dynamics and multigenerational issues teen parents face
- strategies to facilitate father involvement
- ways to organize and conduct effective parent group connections and personal visits

Register online here http://www.parentsasteachers.org/training/knowledge-studio or contact Jennifer Barshack at Jennifer.Barshack@parentsasteachers.org
Minnesota Fathers & Families Network would like to help promote your event or conference by sending it in our monthly e-newsletter. Send information to mailto:info@mnfathers.org. We will make every effort to include the information and apologize in advance if your event or conference is missed.

**MFFN Change of Address:**

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network  
3109 West 50th Street #134  
Minneapolis, MN 55410-2102  


Send us your photos and/or stories of you or someone you know being a father to Sarah Cheesman mailto:scheesman@mnfathers.org. We would love to put those on our website. If you send something to us, you are authorizing us to share it with our members or put it on our website.