



Unifying and
strengthening

Minnesota's fatherhood movement.

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

The mission of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, as a statewide network, is to initiate, promote and support effective programs and to educate on public policy to enhance the responsible involvement of fathers in the lives of children, families and the community.

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Jayne Anderson, Nicollet County Child Support, St. Peter, Region 6

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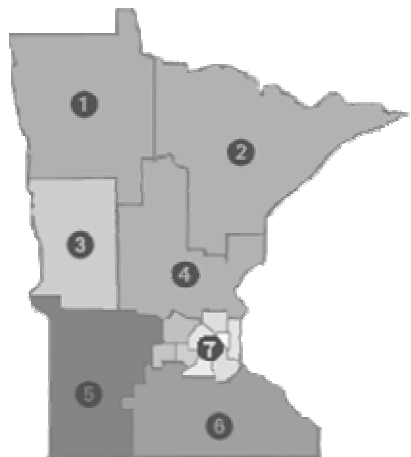
Laura Turner, Minn. Dept. of Employment & Economic Development, St. Paul, Region 7

Tina Welsh, Boyz II Dadz, Duluth, Region 2

MFFN Staff—2004

Paul Masiarchin, State Coordinator, Minneapolis

Bill Anderson, Volunteer Graduate Intern, Buffalo



A Growing Voice for Minnesota's Fathers

The Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN) is still quite young in its existence. However, 2004 was a year full of growth, networking, relationship building and progress for Minnesota fathers and the practitioners that work with them. Our strength as a network comes from the united voices of Minnesotans who share in the work of advancing the physical, emotional, financial and spiritual health of fathers and men in families.

In January of 2004 MFFN hosted its first statewide conference, the Minnesota Fatherhood Summit, with nearly 200 practitioners from around the state in attendance. The summit offered practitioners an opportunity to gather and discuss the complex and interconnected issues surrounding the fatherhood field. MFFN welcomed all of the summit's attendees as new members; this membership is a vital component of MFFN.

With the goal of creating an effective and supportive network of practitioners, MFFN began to distribute to its members a quarterly newsletter with topical articles, a calendar of events and news about the fatherhood field. In addition to the newsletter, MFFN sent regular email updates to current and potential members regarding current issues pertaining to the fatherhood field as well as information about training opportunities, events, etc. MFFN also maintains a web site at www.mnfathers.org; this web site holds a great deal of information about the network, the fatherhood field and other related sites.

We hope that these efforts continue to bring practitioners the information they want and the opportunities they need in order to come together to share ideas, discuss best practices, and fuel the fatherhood movement.

MFFN – in its commitment to be a truly statewide network – maintains regional representation on its Board from throughout Minnesota. As part of our statewide focus, MFFN held six training seminars in the fall of 2004 including sessions in Owatonna, Bemidji, Hutchinson, St. Paul, Brainerd, and Duluth. The sessions were held on the topic of legal issues pertaining to unmarried fathers including the fathers' adoption registry, paternity establishment, parenting time, child custody, and child support collection. The 2004 seminars, our third annual series, were attended by 150 fatherhood practitioners and advocates.

MFFN will continue to provide support, networking, education and consultation to practitioners from all areas and

communities of Minnesota. MFFN, together with all who work with fathers, will continue to play an important role of building the field of fatherhood practitioners throughout Minnesota and to expand the field in number and diversity.

MFFN is here to serve you in your work with fathers and in so doing, to serve fathers, their children, their partners and all of their families. Collectively we

are MFFN and our hope is that we can all continue to work at our best, together to serve and improve the lives of fathers and families in Minnesota. We look forward to another year of growth and progress in 2005.

Pat Sharbonda
President of the Board

February 2005
Brainerd, Minnesota

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Building the Field of Fatherhood Practitioners

Training / Events

Minnesota Fatherhood Summit 2004, "The Changing Face of Fatherhood": MFFN's first statewide event in January, 2004, in St. Cloud was attended by nearly 200 professionals. Keynote presentations were led by Rep. Matt Entenza, Neil Tift from the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families and Joe Kelly from Dads and Daughters.

Fall Seminar Series: MFFN hosted 6 half-day meetings on legal issues for unmarried fathers, in collaboration with Minn. Fathers' Adoption Registry, Goodwill/Easter Seals FATHER Project, Central Minn. Legal Services, Southside Community Health Services and the regionally-based Minn. Initiative Funds. Sessions in Bemidji, Brainerd, Duluth, Hutchinson, Owatonna, and St. Paul were attended by 150 individuals.

Child Support Listening Session: MFFN hosted a luncheon meeting for fatherhood practitioners, low-income parents, and the director of Minnesota's Child Support Enforcement Division. During the meeting, attendees generated 50 recommendations for improvements in child support collection and delivery.

2004 Conferences: MFFN hosted workshops and/or exhibit booths at conferences hosted by: Minn. Social Service Association (MSSA), Minn. Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP), Minn. Fathers' Adoption Registry, Minn. Family Investment Program (MFIP), Minn. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (MnAEYC), St. Louis Co. Health and Human Services, and Minn. Council on Family Relations (MCFR).

Planning Ahead: In late 2004, MFFN planned two major events for early 2005. The second annual Fatherhood Summit will take place in Jan., 2005, and the first of a series of roundtable meetings, titled "What's the role for colleges and universities in healthy male socialization?", will take place in Feb., 2005.

Resources / Outreach

InfoSheets: MFFN published six InfoSheets as part of a series of father-related resource documents. Each document provides an introduction to a specific topic and a short bibliography for in-depth reading. The InfoSheets are available at: www.mnfathers.org/resources.html.

Newsletters and Emails: MFFN mailed quarterly newsletters, "Network Notes", to 200 members. MFFN also e-mailed monthly updates to over 1000 fatherhood advocates, social services providers, and educators across Minnesota.

Family Law Resource Documents: MFFN collaborated with Central Minnesota Legal Services to develop a 4-page document, "The Top 5 Legal Issues for Professionals to Know When Working with Unmarried Fathers." Also, MFFN helped to develop and disseminate the 30-page "Unmarried Fathers Guide to Paternity, Custody and Parenting Time in Minnesota."

2005 Excellence in Fatherhood Award: In January 2005, MFFN will present awards to five individuals and programs selected by MFFN members for their support of a father-friendly Minnesota.

Minnesota News Connection: MFFN joined a news service that produces radio stories for release to Minnesota broadcast stations. In the first 3 months, three father-related stories were each aired by over 40 Minnesota radio stations.

Website: In 2004, 10,000 unique visitors viewed over 100,000 files on the MFFN website (www.mnfathers.org). All MFFN resource materials are available to download from the website.

Organizational Development: In 2004, MFFN acquired federal tax exempt status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. MFFN also developed an organizational logo (see cover).

Additional Collaborative Efforts

Fatherhood Documentary: MFFN joined a group of fatherhood advocates to tape the pilot show of a documentary series, "Voices of Fatherhood". The show was broadcast on cable access television across Minnesota.

Hennepin County Teen Parent Connection (TPC): MFFN staff sits on the Steering Committee of the TPC Fathers Working Group. This group aims to create a coordinated system to identify and serve young fathers.

13th Annual Festival for Fathers & Families: MFFN staff co-chaired the 2004 Festival, planned collaboratively by over 20 social service agencies and attended by approximately 750 individuals in North Minneapolis. Free activities included lunch, T-shirts for fathers, resource tents, an awards ceremony, pony rides, a petting zoo, a moon bounce, a raffle, and more.

2004 Financial Report

Throughout 2004, the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network operated under a fiscal agent, the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF). This relationship allowed MFFN to gain stability while continuing to develop organizational infrastructure. In 2005, MFFN will no longer operate under a fiscal agency agreement.

REVENUES

Foundation Grants:	\$82,454
Membership:	\$1,720
Program Fees:	\$3,225
Contributions:	\$1,728
In-Kind Contributions:	\$7,276
Total Revenues:	\$96,403

EXPENSES

Personnel/Consultants:	\$52,157
Occupancy:	\$3,905
Office Expenses:	\$14,325
Travel Staff/Volunteer:	\$11,087
Workshops/Meetings:	\$7,744
Total Expenses:	\$89,218

2004 Contributors

MFFN gratefully acknowledges our major contributors. Principal funding came from:

- The McKnight Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation

Additional contributors included:

- Initiative Foundation
- Minnesota Department of Health
- National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF)

- Northland Foundation
- Northwest Minnesota Foundation
- Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
- Southside Community Health Services
- The members of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

MFFN Members/Advocates

as of February 1, 2005

- Rebecca Ahlstrand, Carlton Co. Child Support, Carlton
- J. Rico Alexander, PICA Head Start, Minneapolis
- Rose Allen, Univ. of Minn. Extension Service, Farmington
- Horace Allen, Prior Lake
- Jayne Anderson, Nicollet Co. Social Services, St. Peter
- Mary Anderson, Blaine
- Brian Ansberry, Seventh Judicial Dist., St. Cloud
- Terry Arntson, Lakes & Prairies CAP, Moorhead
- Mary Kaye Ashley, ISD # 108 Central Schools, Burnsville
- Lynne Auten, Hennepin Co. - Economic Assistance, Minneapolis
- Curtis Avent, HIREd, Minneapolis
- Paula Baker, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
- Gene Banks, Lakes & Pines Community Action Council, Mora
- Keith Bartholomew, Bi-County CAP Head Start, Walker
- Helen Bassett, Minn. Dept. of Health, Minneapolis
- Lisa Becker, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
- Jessica Benning, Tri-County Community Action, Little Falls
- Michael Bischoff, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis
- Kathryn Bokovoy, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
- Richard Boyce, RAP Head Start, St. Paul
- Elvin Bramer, Chisago Co. Health and Human Services, Center City
- Barbara Brindle, 5th Judicial Dist., St. Peter
- Marcie Brooke, Working Family Resource Center, St. Paul
- Sam Brown, Tri-Valley Head Start, Grand Forks
- Cori Brown, Otter Tail Wadena Community Action Council, New York Mills
- Rebecca Brown-Medvec, Birthline, Inc., St. Cloud
- Al Budde, Chisago Co. Health & Human Services, Center City
- Burl Buhr, Lakes Crisis and Resource Center, Detroit Lakes
- Brody Burton, PICA Head Start, Minneapolis
- Norma Campos, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., East Grand Forks
- Ryan Carlson, PICA Head Start, Minneapolis
- Daniel Clark, RAP Head Start, St. Paul
- Brandon Clokey, Duluth
- Isak Collins, Sustainable Resources Center, Minneapolis
- Jon Croom, Southwest MN Private Industry Council, Montevideo
- Peggy Dauphinais, Otter Tail Wadena Comm. Action Council, New York Mills
- Freddie Davis-English, Hennepin Co. Corrections, Plymouth
- Biana Deegan, Bois Forte Reservation Health Services, Tower
- Terry Defoe, Bois Forte Reservation Health Services, Nett Lake
- Dawn DeHoff, Benton Co. Public Health, Foley
- John Donovan, National Guard Family Assistance, Rosemont
- Andy Doom, Minn. Dept. of Corrections, St. Cloud
- Eric Dowling, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Owatonna
- Kelly Duchene, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
- Barbara Eckberg, Sauk Rapids - Rice, Dist. 47, Sauk Rapids
- Randy Elkington, Lutheran Social Services, Virginia
- Connie Engblom, Ramsey Co. Child Support Enforcement, St. Paul
- Arnie Engelby, Resource Center for Fathers and Families, Blaine
- Marti Erickson, Univ. of Minn., Minneapolis
- Donald Eubanks, Minn. Dept. of Human Services, St. Paul
- Thomas Fairbanks, Leech Lake Head Start, Cass Lake
- Greg Fairrow, HIREd, Minneapolis
- Jimmy Ferguson, PICA Head Start, Minneapolis
- Mary Lou Feroni, St. Louis Co. Child Support, Virginia
- Joe Fick, Ramsey Co. Child Support Enforcement, St. Paul
- Tom Fitzpatrick, Minn. Humanities Commission, St. Paul
- Bonnie Ford, Hennepin Co. Child Support, Minneapolis
- Laura Foss, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., East Grand Forks
- Briana Franzmeier, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Minneapolis
- Andrew Freeberg, Goodwill / Easter Seals, Minneapolis
- Melissa Froehle, FATHER Project / Central MN Legal Services, Minneapolis
- Randy Genrich, The Men's Center, Minneapolis
- Jim Gerich, Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative, Chaska
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- Kim Gillitzer, Birthline, Inc., St. Cloud
- JoAnn Gordon, Workforce Solutions, North St. Paul
- Ronald Grace, Hennepin Co., Minneapolis
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- Kraig Gratke, Tri-County Community Action, Inc., Little Falls
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- Lee Griffin, Lakes & Prairies CAP, Moorhead
- Kathie Grube, Head Start Office, Madison
- Bryan Hackbarth, Boyz II Dadz, Duluth
- Jodi Haehn, HIREd, Minneapolis
- Liz Hagen-Johnson, State of Minn. 10th Judicial Dist., Buffalo
- Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal
- Dave Harrison, Semcac Head Start, Preston
- Janel Haugrud, Otter Tail Wadena Comm. Action Council, New York Mills
- Jan Hayne, Dads Make A Difference, St. Paul
- Vicky Helland, Parenting Resource Center, Austin
- Darlene Hendrickson, TCC Head Start, Brainerd
- Donna Henning, Heartland Community Action Agency, Willmar
- Jayson Hillman, Parenting Resource Center, Inc., Austin
- Gloria Hines, Hubbard Co. Court, Park Rapids
- Chad Hinson, Child Care Resource & Referral, Rochester
- Louis Hohfeld, The McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis
- Terry Hollingsworth, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Burnsville
- Heidi Huotari, Otter Tail Wadena Comm. Action Council, New York Mills
- Leslie Hypolite, Oasis of Love, Minneapolis
- Vicente Inmagua, PICA Head Start, Minneapolis
- Sandy Isaackson, Southwest MN Private Industry Council, Marshall
- Jamil Jabr, Fathers 4 Justice, St. Paul
- Thomas James, Better Resolutions Mediation Services, Kokato
- Michael Jerpak, Univ. of Minn., St. Paul
- Kris Johnson, Department of Human Services, St. Paul
- Lowell Johnson, White Bear Lake Dist. 624, Fort Ripley
- Robert Jones, Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis
- Sherman Jones, Tri-Valley Head Start, East Grand Forks
- Julie Jones, 7th and 9th Judicial Dist., Callaway
- A.Z. Jones, Catholic Charities / Seton Services, St. Paul
- Rebecca Jonke, Human Rights & Peace Store, Lakeland

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Jay Kieft, Heartland Community Action,
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Perry Rollings, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
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Juan Rosas, Upper Midwest American
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Children's Initiative, Walker
Paula Sanan, First Steps Program, St.
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Don Schmitz, Grandkidsandme, St. Paul
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Dennis Schwewe, Center for Parental
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Thank you!

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Head Start, Esko
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