

Annual Report ■ 2006



Leading Minnesota's campaign for healthy fatherhood.



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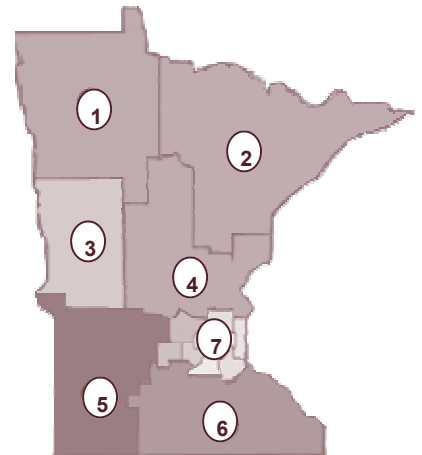
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Dear friends,

The year 2006 was another year of growth for the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network. In terms of professionals served, publications written, events hosted, and referrals made — we superseded the output of each previous year.

The real success of 2006 went well beyond the numbers. It was a year filled with new projects and initiatives to expand the work of healthy fatherhood. Some of the highlights of the year included producing the report “Do we count fathers in Minnesota?”, co-hosting an international speaker on topics of men’s mental health, and providing training about father-involvement to hundreds of professionals across the state.

During the summer of 2006, MFFN moved its statewide offices to a new location in St. Paul, just one block from the state Capitol. This new location provides heightened visibility and access to public policy decision makers including legislators and state employees.

The year 2007 is our fifth year of service to family service professionals, educators, public policymakers, and fatherhood advocates across Minnesota. We are excited to reach this milestone and seek your support in

achieving more successes for Minnesota’s families. Join us in our campaign to make healthy fatherhood an expectation for all of Minnesota’s children.

Sincerely,



R. Clarence Jones
Board President



A. Paul Masiarchin
Executive Director



MFFN Board and Staff, March 2007

Professional Development Events ■ Growing the Field

■ **Minnesota Fatherhood Summit:** MFFN hosted its third annual winter conference in St. Cloud in Jan. 2006. The one-and-a-half day conference featured keynote presentations by Senator Linda Berglin, Minnesota Senate; Dr. Oliver Williams, University of Minnesota; and Dr. Ronald May, The Psychology Center and University of Wisconsin - Madison. 210 attendees from across Minnesota participated in a dozen sessions focusing on healthy fatherhood. MFFN held its fourth conference in Jan. 2007.

■ **Keeping Dads and Kids Together:** Throughout November, MFFN collaborated with the Supervised Visitation Network, Children's Safety Centers, Central Minnesota Legal Services, FATHER Project, Department of Human Services, Southside Community Health Services, and the Minn. Initiative Foundations to host its fifth annual Fall Fatherhood Seminar Series. Topics included three related legal topics: supervised parenting time, child support guidelines, and family law clinics. The half day training sessions, with presentations in six cities, were

"The openness and value that speakers put on both fathers and mothers - it wasn't about pitching one against the other, it was about the children."

Attendee's comments about highlights of 2007 Minn. Fatherhood Summit.

attended by 150 non-profit employees, county workers, and fatherhood advocates.

■ **A World View of Men's Mental Health:** In collaboration with a wide array of Twin Cities' based organizations, MFFN sponsored Preston J. Garrison, Secretary General of the World Federation for Mental Health, a consultative organization to the United Nations. During his stay in Minnesota, Mr. Garrison spoke to 200 leaders about topics of men's health, mental health, and issues of cross-cultural well-being.

■ **Assessment Guide Training:** In June, MFFN worked with the Division of Indian Work to sponsor a half-day training seminar about using an assessment to evaluate organizational commitments to father-friendly program delivery. The session was attended by 30 professionals from across the state.

■ **Conference Workshops and Exhibits:** Throughout 2006, MFFN presented workshops and/or displayed exhibit booths at a dozen professional conferences including Minn. Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP), Prevent Child Abuse Minn., the state's association for prison and jail staff (MAJPS), Head Start association, the state's child support association (MFSRC), Minn. Gang Prevention Summit, and others.

Professional Development Events ■ Growing the Field

■ **Envisioning a Blueprint for the Fatherhood Field:** With support from the McKnight Foundation, MFFN arranged a series of strategic planning meetings for advancing the field of fatherhood in Minnesota. In mid-2007, a “blueprint” will be released, reflecting the plan of action developed by the meetings’ attendees.

■ **Minnesota Excellence in Fatherhood Awards:** In January 2006, MFFN recognized five programs and individuals who are leading the advancement of fatherhood policy

“I am very impressed with the work of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network. Minnesota is certainly leading the nation in promoting fatherhood! Thanks for the inspiration!”

Dr. Ron May, The Psychology Center, Madison, Wisconsin

and practice. The Award Recipients were: Program of the Year: Universal Contact Program, Brown County Public Health; Coalition of the Year: Watonwan County Early Childhood Initiative Coalition; Individual of the Year: Jan Hayne, Dads Make a Difference; Father of the Year: J. Neil Tift; Member of the Year: R. Clarence Jones. In January 2007, MFFN presented six more Excellence in Fatherhood Awards.

MFFN works with fatherhood professionals and advocates in nearly all circumstances. Listed here are a few examples of MFFN’s direct involvement with Minnesota’s fathers:

■ **Minnesota Festival for Fathers & Families:** MFFN co-chaired the 16th annual celebration of fatherhood in North Minneapolis in 2006, working in collaboration with two-dozen sponsoring agencies. 1,000 attendees participated in the free events including lunch, a T-shirt for every father, resource tents of family services, an awards ceremony for healthy fatherhood, pony rides, a petting zoo, a moon bounce, family photographs, birdhouse construction, door prizes, and much more.

■ **Resource Referrals:** MFFN receives hundreds of email and telephone contacts annually from fathers and families seeking support. In nearly all of these situations, MFFN uses its online “Fathers’ Services Directory” to identify an appropriate referral for direct service with a father-friendly community organization or government agency.

Resources & Outreach ■ Spreading the Message

■ **Newsletters:** MFFN mailed quarterly newsletters to 400 professionals and e-mailed copies to another 1,000 individuals across Minnesota. Newsletters focused on Federal funds for responsible fatherhood; the Minn. Family Formation Project; the seven core learnings about fatherhood; and Minnesota's statewide men's counseling hotline.

■ **InfoSheets and Resource Documents:** Throughout 2006, MFFN published 2-page InfoSheets on the following topics: Generative Fathering, Dads and Early Literacy, and Preparing for Father Work. In addition, MFFN worked with other organizations to publish a 4-page resource document about accessing supervised parenting time and other visitation services.

■ **Public Policy:** MFFN continues to develop support for healthy fatherhood public policy. MFFN espouses a nonpartisan approach with a focus on coalition building and educational activities. MFFN sent updates and notices to members and policymakers regarding proposed legislation in areas of family law including



child support, child custody, parenting time, and related issues. In the fall, MFFN trained over 150 professionals about new laws regarding child support. MFFN also joined the Minn. Children's Platform Coalition to broaden the base of support for healthy fatherhood.

■ **Website and Email Service:** During 2006, MFFN's Internet portal, www.mnfathers.org, was accessed by over 14,000 unique visitors who accessed a daily average of 650 files. MFFN sends monthly fatherhood news updates to over 1,500 social service workers, educators, family service professionals, and fatherhood advocates. Mailings contain updates about professional training, recent research, and news affecting fathers and families in Minnesota.

■ **Radio Stories:** Throughout 2006, the Minnesota News Connection produced eight radio stories in collaboration with MFFN. The stories aired on a combined total of approximately 500 radio stations. Additionally, MFFN staff and board members were interviewed locally by radio stations in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

■ **Do We Count Fathers in Minnesota?** In 2006, MFFN wrote and designed a first-of-its-kind 80-page report about the health and well-being of Minnesota's fathers. The report was publicly released in early 2007.

Key Messages ■ Promoting Healthy Discourse

Adapted from a presentation by Adrienne Burgess at the 4th annual Minnesota Fatherhood Summit.

Child well-being: Children benefit from healthy father-child relationships.

- A positive, substantial father-child relationship is of enormous value to children.
- Fathers produce a significant protective factor in the face of other disadvantage.
- Children benefit when fathers who are noncustodial parents can pay consistent child support, and remain an active and healthy presence in their children's lives.
- Whether or not the parents live together, children benefit from positive father-child relationships.

“The Minn. Fathers & Families Network [has] grown in energy — a quiet sense of powerfulness that attracts like energy for the mission of positive change.”

Minn. Fatherhood Summit attendee, January 2007

Gender equity: Women benefit from healthy father-child relationships.

- Virtually all mothers want their child to have a positive and close relationship with their father.
 - Families benefit when individual and institutional barriers that inadvertently limit either parent are eliminated.
 - Child-mother attachment is more secure when child-father attachment is secure.
 - Positive mother-child relationships are linked with positive father-child relationships.
 - Whether or not the parents live together, positive mother-child relationships are linked with positive father-child relationships.

Men's development: Men benefit from healthy father-child relationships.

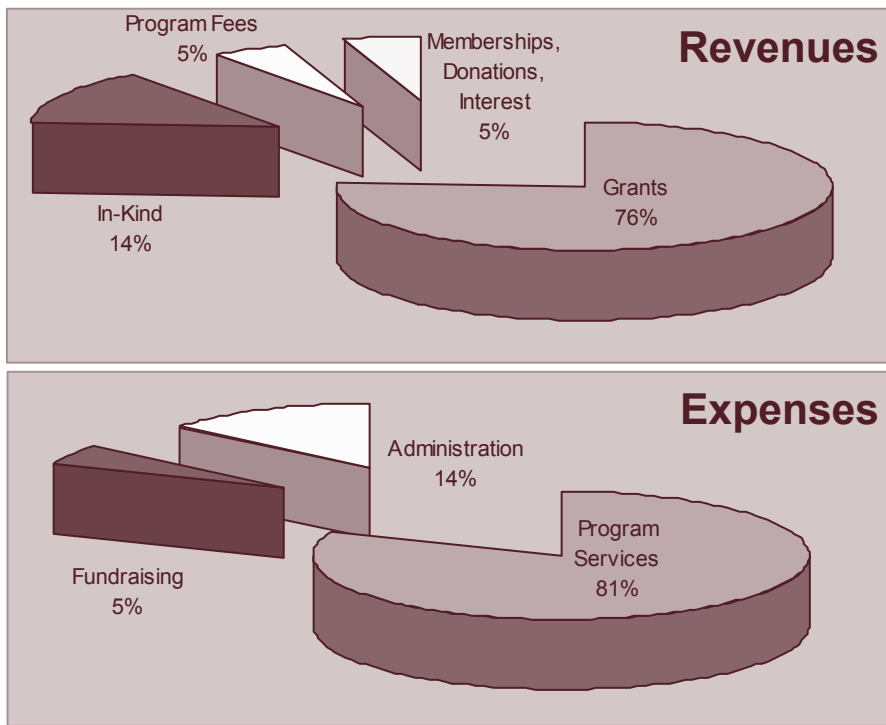
- Virtually all fathers seek an active role in the healthy upbringing of their child.
- Men benefit through increased expression of nurturance, empathy, self-confidence and self-scrutiny.
- Fathers benefit from a positive relationship with their children.
- Whether or not the parents live together, fathers benefit from a positive relationship with their children.

Community benefits: Communities are healthier and safer when healthy father-child relationships are promoted.

- Neighborhoods are safer when fathers are role models and provide a presence and guidance to children of all ages.
- Communities, schools, places of worship, and civic activities positively benefit when fathers are more actively engaged.
- Social service agencies' caseloads are reduced when fathers are part of the solution, not just part of the problem.

January 1, 2006—December 31, 2006

Financial Report



Revenues for Fiscal Year 2006

Grants*	\$99,210
Program Fees	\$6,695
Memberships / Donations	\$3,204
Interest	\$2,875
In-Kind Revenue	\$18,219
Total FY 06 Revenues**	\$130,203

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2006

Program Services	\$87,615
Administration	\$15,413
Fundraising	\$5,583
In-Kind Expenses	\$18,219
Total Expenses	\$126,830

* Includes \$93,710 temporarily restricted revenue generated in 2005, released for 2006 activities. Excludes \$70,000 revenue

** Demonstrates revenues generated for 2006 activities. Revenues generated in FY 2006, excluding in-kind revenues, were \$88,274.

2006 Funders

The following donors provided financial support to the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network for 2006.

Banta Publishing, Inc.
Bush Foundation
Grotto Foundation
Initiative Foundation, serving central Minnesota
International Dairy Queen, Inc.
McKnight Foundation
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Southwest Initiative Foundation
MFFN's members

In-Kind Donor Organizations

MFFN's work in 2006 through in-kind support.

Brainerd Public Schools
Bush Foundation
Central Minnesota Legal Services
Children's Safety Centers
City of Moorhead
Division of Indian Work

Eastside Neighborhood Services
FATHER Project/Goodwill-Easter Seals
Hennepin County
Initiative Foundation, serving central Minnesota
McKnight Foundation
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry
Minnesota Humanities Commission
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting
Northland Foundation
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Olmsted County Public Health
Reading Rx
Saint Cloud State University
Saint John's University
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Southside Community Health Services
Southwest Initiative Foundation
Supervised Visitation Network
West Central Initiative

83% of attendees at the 2006 Fall Fatherhood Seminar Series reported that the session helped them to become "better equipped to work with fathers or to advocate for their needs."

MFFN also thanks all of the organizations that enabled their staff members to

- lead sessions at the 2006 Fatherhood Summit.
- speak at various conferences and training events throughout 2006.
- join planning committees organized by MFFN.

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2006 ■ Building the Field of Fatherhood Practitioners ■ 2006

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Members include paid conference attendees and payments received through February 2007.



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.



info@mnfathers.org ■ www.mnfathers.org