

**Minnesota
Fathers &
Families
Network**

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

A resource for programs
and practitioners that
are helping dads
to help themselves,
their kids, and their
communities.

Evolution of Minnesota's Fatherhood "Movement"

The Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN) has been established during the last year as an important catalyst for unifying and strengthening the fatherhood "movement" in Minnesota. MFFN has been launched with major support from the McKnight Foundation and the support of the Minnesota Initiative Foundations from around the state. The National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF) also has helped to guide and support the new network through initial stages of organizational development. The selection of a Board with representatives from across the state and the hiring of a State Coordinator in March 2003 were significant steps in forming a new organization to support involved and responsible fatherhood across Minnesota.

The vision for MFFN over the coming months and years is to create a unified voice of advocacy for fathers and families by raising important issues around responsible and involved fatherhood. We hope that this will challenge Minnesota political leaders at all levels to recognize and understand the importance of fathers in their public policy decisions. We also want to both challenge and inspire fathers across the state to step up and be the caring, involved, and responsible fathers that their children need and deserve. A second goal is to develop a strong network of support for fatherhood programs and programs that work with fathers especially during times when financial support for such programs and initiatives may be questioned. A third focus is on creating professional development and networking opportunities for those who work with fathers and families. Competent practitioners are the heart of effective fatherhood programs. MFFN wants to support practitioners through professional development workshops, information on research and practice, and new opportunities for networking.

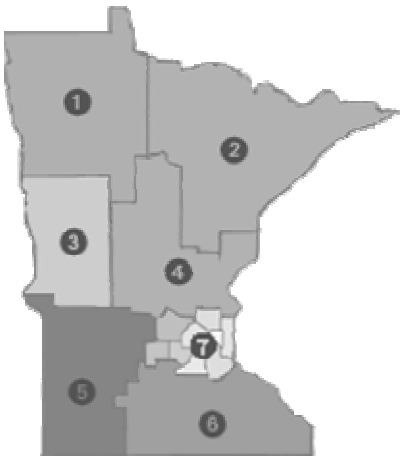
I just finished re-reading Kyle Pruett's book *Fatherhood* and was again impressed by the many positive influences that fathers can have on their children. The image of fathers as "the single greatest untapped resource in the lives of American children" is a very powerful image. This positive image can guide our work over the coming months and years as we look for new ways to tap into this "natural resource" that in many cases has been underutilized and in other cases totally ignored. Tapping into this resource of fathers at all levels can bring important benefits for children and strengthen Minnesota families and communities. MFFN looks forward to finding new and more effective ways to mine this resource in Minnesota. We invite you to join us in this important venture.

Glen Palm, Ph.D., President of the Board

This letter was originally printed, in its entirety, in the August 2003 edition of "Network Notes", MFFN's quarterly newsletter, available at www.mnfathers.org/resources.html.

MFFN Board of Directors—2003

- Rebecca Ahlstrand**, Carlton County Child Support, Region 2
Paula Baker, Bemidji Area Schools, Early Success, Bemidji, Region 1
Joe Bandel, Aitkin County Health and Human Services, Aitkin, Region 4
Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal, Region 7
Robert Clarence Jones, St. Paul Urban League and Southside Community Health Services, St. Paul / Minneapolis, Region 7
Jay Kieft, Southwest Minnesota Foundation, Hutchinson, Region 5
Nathan Knutson, Dept. of Corrections, Moose Lake / Willow River, Moose Lake, Region 2
Nancy Norbie, Kandiyohi County Family Service, Willmar, Region 5
Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University, Child and Family Services, St. Cloud, Region 4
Velura Peterson, Social Services, Virginia, Region 2
Darlene Reiter, Fathers' Resource Center, Fergus Falls, Region 3
Pat Sharbonda, CWC Family Services Collaborative Service Team, Brainerd, Region 4
Jack Sharp, Division of Indian Work, Minneapolis, Region 7
Enrique Soto, ConAgra Foods, St. James, Region 6
Jim Thunder Hawk, Upper Midwest American Indian Center, Minneapolis, Region 7
John Titcomb, Otter Tail - Wadena CAC Head Start, New York Mills, Region 3
Glenn Tobey, Carlton County Children and Family Service Collaborative, Cloquet, Region 2
Laura Turner, Minn. Dept. of Employment & Economic Development, St. Paul, Region 7
Tina Welsh, Women's Health Center, Duluth, Region 2



MFFN Staff—2003

- Paul Masiarchin**, State Coordinator, Minneapolis
Bill Anderson, Volunteer Graduate Intern, Buffalo

2003 Key Accomplishments

Administration:

- Developed and ratified Network Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation;
- Elected first Board of Directors representing Minnesota's seven regions;
- Hired a State Coordinator to manage Network activities;
- Selected a graduate student intern to assist with Network activities;
- Created a process to recruit and maintain active membership of family services practitioners and fatherhood advocates;
- Developed Network policies and procedures regarding finances, board duties, employee policies, etc.

Resources:

- Created and maintain a comprehensive Web site (www.mnfathers.org) with over 15 pages of resources, links, events, and publications;
- Produced and maintain an online searchable database, "Fathers' Services Directory", which highlights over 90 fathers-service programs across Minnesota;
- Developed a comprehensive database of fatherhood advocates and practitioners with nearly 500 entries in the first 8 months;
- Began publication of a quarterly newsletter for members, Network Notes, initially available electronically and via facsimile;
- Initiated contact with over 25 policy makers through a variety of forums;
- Strengthened Network outreach and influence by strategically collaborating with numerous organizations including Minnesota Initiative Funds, NPNFF, MOAPPP, St. Paul Urban League, Southside Community Health Services, and others.

Events:

- Hosted nine regional workshops across Minnesota attended by 200 family services practitioners;
 - Co-sponsored a legislative update attended by over 80 social service professionals;
 - Presented Network information at various state and regional conferences;
 - Planned first annual statewide event, Minnesota Fatherhood and Family Services Summit, attended by 200 individuals in January 2004 in St. Cloud.
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2003 Financial Report

Major Funders:

The Minnesota Fathers & Families Network gratefully acknowledges our major contributors. In 2003, the **McKnight Foundation** was MFFN's main financial contributor. Other donors include:

- Minnesota Family Relations Council
- 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

Revenues and Expenses:

Throughout 2003, the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network operated under the direction of a fiscal agent, the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF). This relationship has allowed MFFN to gain stability and reputability while continuing to develop organizational infrastructure.

REVENUES

Foundation Grants:	\$100,000
Membership:	\$1,950
Conference:	\$1,780
Contributions:	\$2,413
Total Revenues:	\$106,143

EXPENSES

Personnel, Consultants, Contractors:	\$52,086
Occupancy:	\$2,649
Office Expense and Telephone:	\$3,775
Equipment:	\$1,508
Travel Staff and Volunteer:	\$5,623
Workshops and Meetings:	\$2,161
Other (Webpage, postage, etc.):	\$2,043
Total Expenses:	\$69,845

NET INCOME	\$36,298
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MFFN Members

29 January 2004

*Names in bold font are Leadership Circle Members.

Rebecca Ahlstrand, Carlton County Child Support, Carlton Antonio Alba, Mankato
Horace D. Allen, Prior Lake
Suzy Amundson, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
Marion Andersen, Carlton County Public Health Department, Cloquet
Bill Anderson, Buffalo Head Start, Buffalo
Jayne Anderson, Nicollet County Social Services, St. Peter
Susan A. Anderson, Hennepin County, Minneapolis
Suzanne Anderson, Carlton County Public Health, Cloquet
Dave Anderson, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Two Harbors
Mary Kaye Ashley, ISD #191 ECFE (Burnsville/Eagan/Savage), Burnsville
Lynne Auten, Hennepin County Child Support, Minneapolis
Stephanie Autumn, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis
Bonnie Bachan, Hennepin County Child Support, Minneapolis
Paula Baker, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
Julie Baker, HIRED, St. Paul
John Ball, Dads & Daughters, Duluth
Joe Bandel, Aitkin County Health and Human Services, Aitkin
Keith Bartholomaeus, Bi-County CAP Head Start, Walker
Helen J. Bassett, Minn. Dept. of Health Center for Health Statistics, Minneapolis
Ramona Beiswanger, MVAC - Head Start, Mankato
Jodi Belair, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
Michelle Bell, Minneapolis FATHER Project, Minneapolis
Richard Boyce, RAP Head Start, St. Paul
Rebecca Brown-Medvec, Birthline, Inc., St. Cloud
Al Budde, Chisago County Health & Human Services, Center City
Norma Campos, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., East Grand Forks
Christine Cardinal, Roosevelt Elementary, St. Paul
Sandy Carlson, Crow Wing County Social Service, Brainerd
Bob Carrillo, Minneapolis
Susan M. Connaughty, Semcac Head Start, Rushford
Jon Croom, Southwest Minn. Private Industry Council, Montevideo
Megan M. Curran, Sustainable Resources Center, Minneapolis
Freddie L. Davis-English, Hennepin County, Plymouth

Eric Dowling, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Owatonna
Damon Drake, HIRED, St. Paul
Kelly Duchene, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
Debbie Eckhoff, Apple Valley
Arnie Engelby, Resource Center for Fathers and Families, Blaine
Judy Farber, Tri-County Community Actions, Inc., Little Falls
Stephen A. Fiksdal, Mabel First Lutheran Church, Mabel
Kathryn Fonfara, Three Rivers Community Action Agency, Zumbrota
Andrew Freeberg, Minneapolis FATHER Project, Minneapolis
Jonathan Fribley, St. Cloud Public Schools, St. Cloud
Melissa D. Froehle, FATHER Project / Central MN Legal Services, Minneapolis
Joyce Garrison, Bi-County CAP, Bemidji
Randy Genrich, The Men's Center, Minneapolis
Jim Gerlich, Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative, Chaska
Jason Giese, Southwest Minn. Private Industry Council, Montevideo
Kim Gillitzer, Birthline, Inc., St. Cloud
Diane Gilmore, Kootasca Community Action, Inc., Grand Rapids
Eric Goodrich, Brainerd Learning Center, Brainerd
JoAnn Gordon Mays, Workforce Solutions, North St. Paul
Travis Gransee, The Rochester Area Family Y, Rochester
Kraig Gratke, Tri-County Community Action, Inc., Little Falls
Bryan Hackbarth, Boyz II Dadz, Duluth
Tangela Hadrava, Bi-County CAP Head Start, Bemidji
Ralph O. Hall, Pact Ministries, Mankato
Jarrod Hall, Changing Faces Community, Sauk Rapids
Lance Handy, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis
Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal
Dave Harrison, Semcac Head Start, Preston
Jan Hayne, Concordia University School of Human Services, St. Paul
Linda High, FDL Human Services, Cloquet
Chad Hinson, Child Care Resource & Referral, Rochester
Terry Hollingsworth, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Burnsville
Allan O. Ige, Workforce Solutions, St. Paul
Jamil Jabr, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
Karen Jentz, Melrose ECFE, Melrose
Michael Jerpak, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
Robert Clarence Jones, Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis
Jay Kieft, Southwest Minnesota Foundation, Hutchinson
Timothy C. Kinley, R-Kids of Minnesota, Edina
Karen Ladig, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
Tim Lanz, Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Paul
Sandra Lester, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis
Ann Lindstrom, Stop It Now! Minnesota, St. Paul

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

Nicki Linsten-Lodge, Bi-County CAP, Backus
 Angie Lockwood, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.,
 Crookston
 Lori Lofrano, Crow Wing County Child Support, Brainerd
 Tami Lueck, Bridges of Hope, Brainerd
 Mark-Peter Lundquist, Urban Ventures Center for
 Fathering, Minneapolis
 Sharon Lussier, Cass Lake Family Center, Cass Lake
 Marie Magnan, Dakota County PHD, W. St. Paul
 Matt Majeski, Olmsted County Community Services,
 Rochester
 Steven J. Mayer, Mankato Area Healthy Youth, Mankato
 Beth A. Mediger, Working Family Resource Center, St.
 Paul
 Gregorio Mendez-Ortega, CLUES, Mankato
 Aaron Milgrom, Domestic Abuse Project, Minneapolis
 Juan Mitchell, HIRED, Minneapolis
 Patrick Morley, Project for Pride in Living, Inc., St. Paul
 Joanne Mulbah, Cass Lake Family Center, Cass Lake
 Peter Myers, Minneapolis Health Department, Minneapolis
 Nancy Norbie, Kandiyohi County Family Service, Willmar
 Molly Oberweiser, Concordia University School of Human
 Services, St. Paul
 Susan O'Connell, Arc Southeastern Minnesota, Rochester
 Molly Olson, Center for Parental Responsibility, Roseville
 Staci Owens, Hennepin County Child Support,
 Minneapolis
Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud
 Lois Paulson, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
 Lynne Penke, Hennepin County Child Support,
 Minneapolis
 Walter Perkins, Hennepin County, Minneapolis
 Laura Perry, Family Investment Center, Hibbing
 David E. Perry, Children's Mental Health, Grand Rapids
 Velura Peterson, Social Services, Virginia
 Daniel Pfarr, Dads Connection, Minneapolis
 Greg Poehling, Minn. Department of Human Services, St.
 Paul
 Stacy Pratt, HIRED, Minneapolis
 Steve Rajewsky, Concordia University School of Human
 Services, St. Paul
Darlene Reiter, Otter Tail - Wadena CAC, Fergus Falls
 J.P. Rennquist, The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth
 Amy Riley, Parenting Resource Center, Inc., Austin
 Kendra Ringstmeyer, Southwest MN Private Industry
 Council, Inc., Marshall
 Albert Roehm, South Central Children's Project, Mankato
 Thomas A. Schnabel, Cambridge
Jerome D. Schoenecker, Resource Center for Fathers
 and Families, Eagan
 Barbara Schubring, Council on Crime and Justice,
 Minneapolis

Dennis Schwewe, Center for Parental Responsibility, Little
 Canada
Pat Sharbonda, CWC Family Services Collaborative,
 Brainerd
 Brian Sielsema, Southwest MN Private Industry Council, Inc.,
 Marshall
 V.J. Smith, Minneapolis MAD DADS, Minneapolis
 Rita Smith, Bi-County CAP, Bemidji
 Gerard Sordelet, Carlton County Fatherhood Program,
 Carlton
 Enrique Soto, ConAgra Foods, Inc., St. James
 John E. Stark, St. Louis County, Duluth
 Sarah Stelzner, Covered Bridge Family Resources, Zumbrota
 Julie Strand, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
 Zachary Tift, St. Paul
 Kathy Tingelstad, Minnesota House of Representatives,
 Andover
John Titcomb, Otter Tail - Wadena CAC Head Start, New
 York Mills
Glen Tobey, Carlton County Children and Family Service
 Collab., Cloquet
Laura Turner, Minn. Dept. of Employment & Economic
 Development, St. Paul
 John Turnipseed, Urban Ventures Center for Fathering,
 Minneapolis
 Amy Vasey, Freeborn County Dept. of Human Services,
 Albert Lea
 Donald Velo, Kootasca Community Action, Inc., Grand Rapids
 Doua Vue, PICA Head Start Northeast Center, Minneapolis
 Bob Wagner, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
 Nancy Walker, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray Human Services,
 Marshall
 Lois Warner, Mediation Works North, Inc., Hibbing
 Everett Waters, Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps, St. Paul
 Mike Welsh, Eden Prairie Early Childhood Special Ed., Prior
 Lake
 Jan West, HIRED, St. Paul
 Laurie Whitaker, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud
 Michael Wilson, Division of Indian Work, Minneapolis
 Ann Wiltcheck, Brown County Family Services, New Ulm
 Heidi Winter, Southwest MN Private Industry Council, Inc.,
 Marshall
 Rene Wright, Cass Lake Family Center, Cass Lake
 Deb Wright, Duluth
 Nimo Yusuf, Eden Prairie
 Bob Ziegler, ISD #31 Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

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www.mnfathers.org

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.

“Thanks for bringing this opportunity to our area! Fabulous networking – best ever.”

Mankato workshop attendee
Fall 2003

“Valuable information; great networking!”

Little Falls workshop attendee
Fall 2003