



Minnesota  
Fathers & Families  
Network enhances  
healthy father-child and  
family relationships by  
promoting initiatives  
that inform public  
policy and further  
develop the field of  
fatherhood practitioners  
statewide.

# Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

## 2012 Annual Report

### Year of Transitions



April 2013

Dear Funders, Supporters and Members,

In 2012, the Minnesota Fathers and Families Network (MFFN) underwent transformations. We made some strategic as well as structural changes. We hired a new executive director, moved to a virtual office, developed a new membership structure, recruited strong board members, and focused our work on two leading-edge fatherhood issues: fathers' reentry to families and communities following incarceration and the father's role in the health and well-being of their children and families.

Many of the changes MFFN went through in 2012 were observable. However, when organizations grow in ways that MFFN did, unobservable changes such as transitions in thinking and approaches to opportunities and issues also occur. MFFN has been adjusting and will continue to respond to the needs of our community. We are open to exploring new methods in working with those who support fathers and families. These opportunities for change offer us both challenges and new possibilities. As MFFN plans ahead, fund development is a top priority. We are also rethinking our role in the changing climate for non-profits and we are adapting our programming to continue our mission of strengthening father-child relationships.

Strategic planning, focusing on our strengths, and working smarter were important this year and will be key to our continued success in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of MFFN. We look forward to working with you in 2013.

Sincerely,



Sam Simmons  
2012 Board President



Morgan Streeter  
Executive Director

## 2012 Board Members

**Rebecca Ahlstrand**

Carlton County Human Services, Cloquet

**Christian Barnett**

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union, Brainerd

**Jennifer Barshack**

Parents as Teachers, St. Paul

**Molly Crawford**

Minnesota Department of Human Services, St. Paul

**Karla Drown**

Southwest Health and Human Services, Marshall

**DeeAnn Gieseke**

Watonwan County Early Childhood Collaborative, St. James

**Gil Domally**

Olmstead County Child and Family, Rochester

**Michael Harralson**

Minnesota Department of Human Services, St. Paul

**Mike Jerpbak**

Crossroads College, Rochester

**Lowell Johnson**

Brainerd Lakes Early Childhood Coalition, Brainerd

**Joe Kelly**

The Dad Man, St. Paul

**Brad Kramer**

Southwest Initiative Foundation, Hutchinson

**Nathan Knutson**

Minnesota Department of Corrections, Moose Lake

**David Lipps**

Chippewa County Family Service, Montivideo

**Lori Lofrano**

Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Cloud

**RaeAnn Mayer**

St. Joseph's Area Health Services, Park Rapids

**Lynn Nesland**

Father's Resource Program, Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action, New York Mills

**Larry Oberg**

Otter Tail Wadena Head Start, New York Mills

**Glen Palm**

St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud

**Velura Peterson**

St. Louis County Health & Human Services, Virginia

**Sam Simmons**

Samuel Simmons Consulting, Minneapolis



MFFN kicked off its 9th Annual Minnesota Fathers and Family Services Summit focusing on aspects of fathering across the lifespan. Conference presenters included subject-matter experts: Dr. Rob Palkovitz, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware, Dr. Glen Palm, Professor of Child and Family Studies, St. Cloud State University, Dr. Rose Brewer, Professor of African-American Studies, University of Minnesota, Susie Brown, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and Tom Gillaspay, Minnesota State Demographer.

Highlights of the summit included discussions on:

- Fathering in diverse family contexts
- MFFN leadership circles that led to collaborative efforts across the state
- Demographic changes around the state and how that impacts families
- Understanding trauma and the impact on children
- Mind the Gap, a federal grand demonstration project for fatherhood reentry after incarceration (MFFN collaboration)
- Goodwill/Easter Seals FATHER Project (MFFN collaboration)
- Minnesota systems—legal, child welfare, child support, public health and corrections

More than 125 people attended in a year filled with agency budget cuts and limited resources. In addition to the keynote presentations, MFFN offered 20 breakout sessions and welcomed 12 exhibitors. Of conference participants who responded to our follow up survey, 100% reported they would recommend next year's conference to a colleague and 95% said they gained at least one actionable idea to take back to their communities.

MFFN awarded six awards for "Excellence in Fatherhood." Individuals and organizations recognized with awards are listed on page 11.



## Mind the Gap

Resources to support fathers returning from prison to families in Minnesota

Photo: Rick Demopolis

Mind the Gap is a federal demonstration grant project among the Minnesota Departments of Corrections and Human Services, Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota and MFFN. The project supported fathers reentering the community and reengaging with their families. It offered direct services, at a pilot site, from 2010 to 2012.

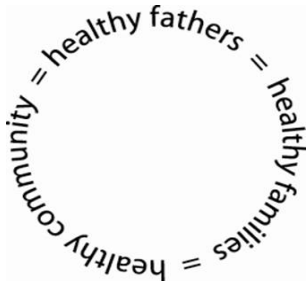
MFFN facilitated information sharing, cross training and education among agency partners and conducted a project evaluation. In accomplishing the work and goals of the project we collaborated with:

- African American Family Services
- Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota
- Hennepin County Child Support
- Minnesota Department of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division
- Minnesota Department of Corrections
- Ramsey County Child Support.

Mind the Gap was featured in a workshop at MFFN's 2012 Summit. One attendee commented, "I was able to become aware of activities to do with people who are incarcerated when we go into the facility. I also gained a greater understanding of the cycle of crimes, abuse and a greater understanding of what those who have committed crimes have endured in their lives."

To access informational resources from the project and to see a video that showcases the project and serves as a tool for others who are interested in replicating it, go to [www.mnfathers.org/mindthegap](http://www.mnfathers.org/mindthegap).

## 2012 Fall Seminar Series Reentry After Incarceration



In continuing our tradition of offering in-depth learning opportunities and focusing on emerging issues, MFFN offered a fall workshop series focused on fathers' reentry after incarceration. MFFN has a strong relationship with the Minnesota Department of Corrections and we have seen the toll that incarceration takes on communities and families.

According to "Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children" a U.S. Department of Justice 2010 report (<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>) more than 15,000 children in Minnesota have a father who is incarcerated. Of those individuals who are incarcerated 98% of them are eventually released. By supporting those individuals who return to our communities, we improve our social capital. Often individuals reentering the community are considered a liability. With a more organized effort to support those individuals we can change perceptions and help individuals think of themselves as assets.

MFFN invited Paul Harrison, President and National Director of Reentry AfterCare, to be the featured speaker. MFFN chose him based on his research of 99 reentry programs that he found to be unsustainable and 65 that he considered to be true examples of sustainability and societal shift. Harrison then compiled best practices and developed a curriculum that incorporated information from returning citizens.



MFFN convened our fall seminar series in communities throughout Minnesota including: Proctor, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Rochester, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. A total of 125 individuals attended and MFFN continues to work with those attendees on how best to support fathers returning to communities.

## **MFFN Engagement Across the State**

Throughout the year, MFFN led and participated in events and conferences across the state. Efforts including addressing conference participants in keynote and workshop presentations, providing training and learning opportunities, participating in and attending events, exhibiting and building relationships.

- Goodwill/Easter Seals FATHER Project Day of Training: MFFN and the FATHER Project collaborated on a day of training in July. Seventy-five individuals from FATHER Projects expansion sites across the state and professionals who are partners in the project, Child Support, Department of Corrections, the Domestic Abuse Project and early childhood partners, Minneapolis Early Childhood Family Education, Parents as Teachers, and Way to Grow shared information on their services. The FATHER Project assists fathers in overcoming the barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally.
- U of M; Engaging New and Expectant Father Community Forum: MFFN partnered with U of M Extension Office, Northside Achievement Zone, Men as Peacemakers, and the Coalition Against Domestic Abuse to train 150 social work professionals on the role of fathers, and challenge the barriers professionals face in working with fathers.
- Minnesota Family Support & Recovery Council, the state's only membership organization for child support professionals: MFFN presented a conference breakout session to child support workers on the value of fathers and how they can support families by supporting fathers.
- Teenwise Conference: Exhibited and shared information in a session with 150 direct services providers who work with adolescents on positive male involvement and how to engage and work with teen fathers.
- St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference: Exhibited and shared information with the 2,000 plus participants on the impact of fathers in their services. Conducted a breakout session on the value of fathers and how to engage fathers in the child welfare system.
- Program Sharing Conference, St. Cloud MN: Shared information on the work and involvement that MFFN has across the state and how MFFN supports professionals. Conducted a breakout session on the impact of fathers in early childhood development.
- Blue Earth County Department of Human Services Training: Presented at a staff meeting for professionals on the impact of fathers and how to assist them in establishing their parental rights in order to be more effective and involved in the lives of their children.

## MFFN 2012 Revenue and Expenses

### Revenue

Fee-based Program Fees	\$19,853
Foundation/Corp Grants	\$58,750
Governmental Revenue	\$69,400
Individual Donations	\$1,400
Interest Income	\$2,083
Membership Dues	\$275
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,793
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$153,554</b>

### Expense

Administration	\$64,176
Program Services	
Advancing System/Programs	\$99,725
Policy and Education	\$2,017
Resource Development	\$9,987
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$175,905</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$22,351</b>



## MFFN Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2012

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

Cash - CD \$84,696

Cash - Checking Bremer \$28,331

Cash - Savings Bremer \$84,944

Total Checking/Savings \$197,971

##### Other Current Assets

Contracts Receivable \$6,250

Pledges Receivable \$15,000

Total Other Current Assets \$21,626

Total Current Assets \$219,597

**TOTAL ASSETS \$219,597**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

##### Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable \$3,631

Total Accounts Payable \$3,631

##### Other Current Liabilities

Deferred Revenue \$650

Total Other Current Liabilities \$650

Total Current Liabilities \$4,281

Total Liabilities \$4,281

#### Equity

Retained Earnings \$222,671

Temp Restricted Net Assets \$15,000

Net Revenue \$-22,355

Total Equity \$215,316

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$219,597**

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network would like to recognize the following funders and supporters of our organization:



## **2012 Excellence in Fatherhood Award Winners**

MFFN honors individuals and organizations each year at its annual Minnesota Fatherhood & Family Services Summit. The recipients were nominated by others for their commitment and contributions to the fatherhood field. MFFN presented the following awards in 2012:

### **Outstanding Individual of the Year**

*Walter Burk, Attorney, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Minneapolis*

### **Outstanding Member of the Year**

*Molly Mulcahy Crawford, Paternity Program Administrator, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Child Enforcement Division, St. Paul*

### **Outstanding Member of the Year**

*Mike Jerpbak, Professor and Chair of the Family, Youth, and Community Program, Crossroads College, Rochester*

### **Agency of the Year**

*Wings Family Services, Alexandria*

### **Program of the Year**

*Fathers' Resource Program, Otter Tail County*

### **Visionary of the Year**

*RaeAnn Mayer, Community Health Manager, St. Joseph's Area Health Services, Park Rapids*

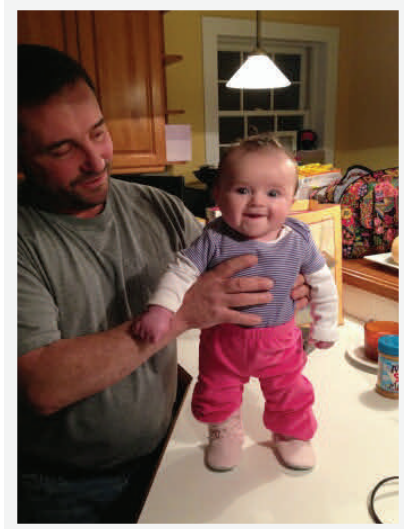
### **Feedback from 2012 Summit Attendees**

*Very mind bending information. Not something I think about every day.*

*It gave me an opportunity to challenge my own preconceived notions and stereotypes with ease. The group was comprised of various ethnicity and race. We seemingly were speaking honestly without fear of repercussions. We were laughing. I greatly appreciated this workshop.*

*Exceptional information linking systemic institutional racism and historical trauma to individual and community level trauma - and provided hope and solutions as well.*

*She helped me remember how critically important it is to respect and challenge my prejudices/stereotypes of fatherhood.*





Celebrating 10 years

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2013. Watch for upcoming information regarding recognition of this milestone across the state.

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