

Dads Are Most Ordinary Men Turned By Love Into Heroes, Adventurers, Story-Tellers and Singers Of Song

- Pam Brown, Poet

“Allowing
fatherhood to
be an admirable
position in the
family”

Survey respondent

“Transforming systems through fathers
voices” Washington Fatherhood Council
Survey 2019



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Engaging with and Supporting Fathers

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Washington State Fathers Network

3 Focus Areas

- Connecting Men
 - Support Groups – 12 Chapters, 8 that meet
 - Social Activities
- Lifting the Voices of Men
- Advocating for Equal Access to the Community for those with a disability



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Dads M.O.V.E



Who we are, a little History

- Dads MOVE was founded in July of 2011 by a core group of dedicated fathers who have worked in the child serving systems and for other family run agencies in Washington.
- All our core founders were dedicated fathers and worked in various capacities and as Peer Counselors in Washington. We all believed in empowering fathers to be fully involved. Most parent run organizations were started by moms and have a female-oriented perspective.
- Dads MOVE serves both moms and dads, featuring a male-oriented perspective.
- We support and train parents on how to build better relationships with each other, and how to survive raising children with challenging behavior



Objectives

- **The Importance Of And How To Be Welcoming Of Fathers**
- **Men Want To Be Good Fathers, How To Be Of Help**
- **Assisting Men In Finding Support for Themselves**
- **Becoming a Father Friendly Organization**



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Defining Fathers, Fathering and Fatherhood

“Fathers,” “Fathering,” and “Fatherhood” are socially constructed identities, roles, and concepts normalized through socialization and assigned to those deemed to fit within the bounds of male gender identity. We define fathers as inclusive of all father figures, regardless of their sexual identity, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

-Harris PDN Fatherhood Engagement Committee

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Perceptions of Fathers

Three (3) words that you would personally use to describe “Fathers”

Three (3) words that you think US Culture/Society would use to describe “Fathers”



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Breakout Session

Reality Statistics

- In 2000, there were 93,000 stay at home dads.
- In 2019, there were over 191,000 stay at home dads
- *source: [https://athomedad.org/advocacy/statistics-on-stay-at-home-dads/#:~:text=Summary%3A%20Found%20that%20the%20true,labor%20force%20\(see%20below\).](https://athomedad.org/advocacy/statistics-on-stay-at-home-dads/#:~:text=Summary%3A%20Found%20that%20the%20true,labor%20force%20(see%20below).)

The Importance of and How to be More Welcoming of Fathers (The Low Hanging Fruit)

- Think back to the 3 words exercise
- Scheduling meetings/classes so that both parents can attend
- If photos/posters are part of the décor, they should include photos of positive, diverse images of men and men with children
- Chairs that fit a larger male body
- Changing tables in all bathrooms
- Lobby magazines that are of interest to men
- Assess the father friendliness of your organization by taking an online questionnaire (e.g. from the National Fatherhood Initiative)

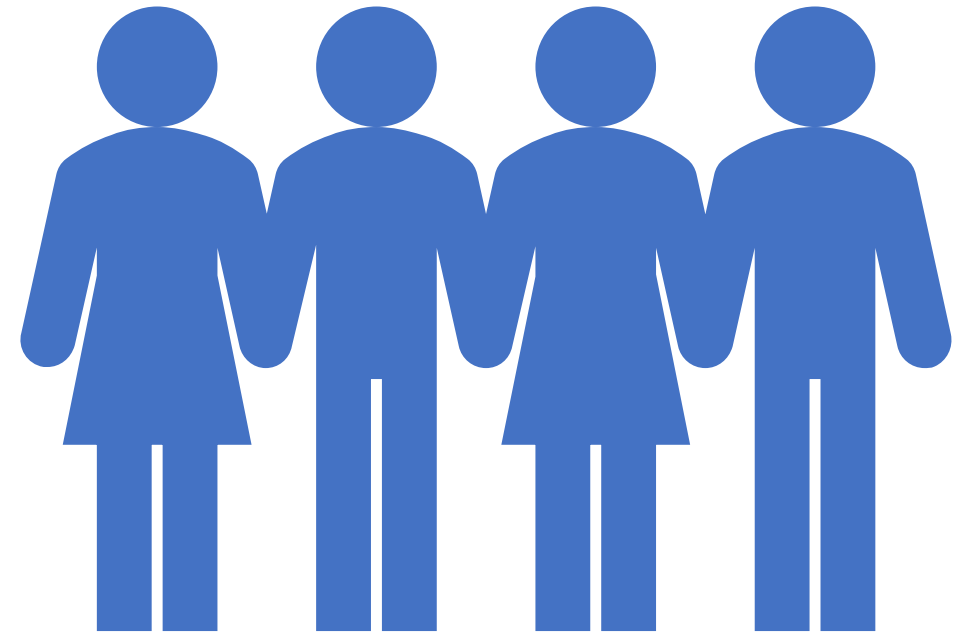


Men Do Want To Be Good Fathers. How to Be of Help.

- Fathers in General
- Fathers of Children Who Have a Disability or Special Health Care Need
- How to be of Help

Assisting Men in Finding Support for Themselves

- Find ways to connect them with other men
 - Connect them with existing men's groups or start a group
 - Help them identify men only or family oriented social activities where they can connect to other men.
- Find ways for them to tell their family's story to others
- Discuss the importance of self-care
- Help them understand that it's ok to be strong for their family but vulnerable enough to ask for help





Thank you!

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