

HERE'S WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROJECT

"It's good to be able to share with other fathers who are in the same situation I am in."

"I'm able to learn things from the class and use it to better my situation, both as a father and in my personal life."

"You are able to express yourself and your feelings and won't be judged."

"Class facilitators and guest speakers are able to help you better understand where you are in the system."

"You are able to learn information you may not have gotten elsewhere."

Bringing Back the Dads is a pilot project for fathers who were not living with their children when they were removed from the home. Project activities should lead to positive changes for fathers. Some positive changes for fathers could include: increased visitation time with their children, better relationships with their children, better communication between dad and the child's mother, and in some cases, custody of the children. Fathers also have an opportunity to take advantage of community supports and services.



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Protecting our children,
families and future



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Partnership Collaboration

This project is being funded by the American Humane Association, and implemented by the Indiana Department of Child Services, Marion County Department of Child Services, Fathers and Families Center, and Indiana University School of Social Work at IUPUI.

Information for Dads

Bringing Back the Dads

Guiding and supporting dads through the child welfare system



NATIONAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER
ON NON-RESIDENT FATHERS AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

STATISTICS OF FATHERLESS CHILDREN

Fathers matter in the lives of their children. The following statistics feature outcomes of children from unengaged, fatherless households, compared to children whose fathers are involved. Children from unengaged fathers are:

- Five times more likely to live in poverty
- Three times more likely to fail in school
- Two times more likely to develop emotional and/or behavioral problems
- Two times more likely to abuse drugs
- Two times more likely to be abused and neglected
- Two times more likely to become involved in crime
- Three times more likely to commit suicide

Source: *Father Facts*, National Fatherhood Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Your child's Family Case Manager

OR

Fathers and Families Center staff:

Randy Clark—Project Recruiter—544-3880
Michael Dix—Project Facilitator—921-5936
James Melton—Project Facilitator —713-0169

BRINGING BACK THE DADS...

...is a 20-week support and educational group for non-resident fathers in Marion County. Fathers and Families Center staff facilitate discussions relevant to the father's situation.

- Weekly meetings informing you how the child welfare system (DCS) works.
- Information about the legal system and community supports that could benefit you as a father.
- Explanation of your rights as a father whose child is in the child welfare system.
- Ideas about how to make a difference in your child's life and future
- Meetings designed to help you become not only a better father, but also a better person.

Fathers matter.



Your child needs you.



YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT EVEN IF YOU.....

- Do not have legal custody of your child
- Have been less involved in your child's life than you would have liked.
- Have been kept away due to a job or being pushed away by others involved in your child's life.
- Have not been paying, are not current with, or are not required to pay child support.
- Did not know you had a child until recently.



AS A FATHER WITH A CHILD IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT....

- To have an attorney; if you can not afford one, you can ask the judge to appoint one for you.
- To be notified of all legal hearings involving your child.
- To be involved in case planning and decision making.
- To ask for visitation with your child