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.

**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.
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

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.

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

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.

Fathers matter.

Your child needs you.