



NEWS

Quarterly Publication of the
**Worcester County
Fathers & Family Network**
Spring 2007~Volume 3, Issue 2

NETWORK

SHOW YOUR LOVE!

By Jack Bonina

See Page 11
For More
Event Photos!

As part of its continued effort to raise awareness of the importance of fathers in the development of children, The Worcester County Fathers & Family Network hosted a Workshop on winning film people providers with the assistance of Elm Park



December 7, 2006, that presented the award entitled, *Show Your Love*. More than forty representing fathers, mothers, and services attended. The workshop, held in collaboration Worcester Public Schools and with the gracious Principle Ruth Ann Melancon, was shown at the Community School in Worcester. The film's developer, Sam Kauffmann, Boston University Associate Professor of Film, facilitated discussion with audience members. *Show Your Love* premiered at a White House conference on "The Role of Fathers in Families" and won the Bronze Apple at the National Education Film and Video Festival.

It is a documentary that features interviews with seven children, ages nine to seventeen, from multi-cultural backgrounds, which are interviewed on issues related to the significance and influence of fatherhood in their lives. The film is a moving and honest account of fatherhood from a child's perspective. Perhaps the most important aspect of the event included the discussion and presentations following the showing of the film. Juvenile Court Judge Luis Perez assisted in the lively discussion with audience



members that included several fathers who acknowledged how their personal difficulties, including divorce and substance abuse, have impacted their relationships with their children. A presentation from Dean Haas, Jr., a father in attendance with his five-year-old son, summarized the importance he has in his child's life.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~
Mark your calendar now for FATHERS FEST
JUNE 16, 2007
Institute Park, Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA

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The Worcester County Fathers & Family Network is made up of community organizations, professionals, and fathers who promote responsible fatherhood, with an emphasis on improving parenting, self awareness, and expanding opportunities for training and employment necessary to carry out financial responsibilities of caring for children.



For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646



NEWS

Committee Reports

NETWORK

We are pleased to report that our first issue of the reinstated *Network News* was well received and the response to our call for submissions has been tremendous. Thank you, all! As a result, you can look forward to a new quarterly column, *Health Hints*, that debuts in this issue on Page 10. You'll also find interesting articles contributed by a number of Worcester County Fathers & Family Network member organizations. They've shared information on their programs and services, some of which you may not already be aware, which we hope you'll find helpful. Be sure to read Jack Bonina's article on Page 5 for a clear idea who the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network is and what you can do to help achieve our mission. Check out *Community Bulletins* for upcoming events and activities starting on Page 8 and don't miss the *Photo Gallery* on Page 11.

We're aiming to produce the *Network News* quarterly, dated for delivery by e-mail transmission and available on our web site for the first of January, April, July, and October. Please submit your articles, announcements, calendar entries, and any other newsworthy items you may have to offer for each quarter by e-mailing them to the Newsletter Committee via sheldon@dor.state.ma.us at least six weeks prior to the Newsletter's scheduled quarterly delivery date. To learn more about the Newsletter Committee, feel free to contact committee co-chairs Karen Waters at watersk@worc.k12.ma.us or Liz Sheldon at sheldon@dor.state.ma.us.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

By Chris Nelson, Network Chairperson

The Network has been very busy over the past few months, particularly in the areas of fundraising and public awareness. The completion of the Strategic Plan has provided clear goals that the Network has already begun to address. The hard work of our Network Coordinator, Jack Bonina, and all those who volunteer their time, have helped the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network become the model for which all the networks across the state hope to follow.

The **Steering Committee**, comprised of the officers and key committee chairs of the Network, continues to meet regularly to identify and oversee all activities that follow the goals from the Network's Strategic Plan and support its overall mission.

The **Fathers Fest Planning Committee** has been meeting biweekly with the focus on planning the event, acquiring sponsors, and exploring the fundraising potential the event could have to support the Network.

We invite you to become involved in the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network. Monthly meetings for providers are held at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at various community locations. We hope you'll attend and invite a colleague or two to join you! Share information about your program, learn what's new with others, and participate in promoting responsible fatherhood and healthy parenting. For location of the meetings, please e-mail a request to Liz Sheldon (sheldon@dor.state.ma.us) to be added to the Network notice distribution list.

Anyone interested in participating in a Network committee should contact the appropriate chairperson to find out when and where the next meeting will be held. (Please see Network Committee Contacts listed on page three.)

For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646

Strategic Planning Committee Report By Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator



The Worcester County Fathers and Family Network has achieved much success in the eight years since its inception. A diverse array of partners have joined together over the years to deliver the important message that children do best when their mothers and fathers are involved with them in an active and healthy way. Much has been done to promote public awareness of the positive benefits of effective fatherhood. However, like other organizations, it is important that the Network evaluates its efforts and determines the most effective delivery of its Responsible Fatherhood message.

In January 2006, a Strategic Planning Committee was organized, composed of leadership from several local programs including Great brook Valley Health Center, MSPCC, Pernet Family Health, Jeremiah's Inn, Worcester Communities of Care, Edwards Street Child Care, Child Development Head Start, Child and Family Service, Worcester District Court Probation, and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Data was collected from fathers, mothers, and other key community stakeholders. As a result of the efforts of the committee and the feedback we received from the community, two Strategic Goals were developed with several objectives for each goal including:

- ◆ Providing effective leadership on fatherhood issues by developing and supporting the coalition through sustained funding efforts, and establishing the Network as a resource to organizations that will help to develop a continuum of necessary fatherhood education and support services.
- ◆ Raising Public Awareness of the importance of fatherhood through workshops, special events, our web site and other media and marketing efforts.

Over the next two years, the Worcester County Fathers and Family Network will work toward achieving the Strategic Plan, which will help give the Network a clearer focus and higher visibility, ultimately resulting in more awareness of the importance of fatherhood and more resources to help support fathers to carry out their role.

Fundraising Committee Report By Deb Kott, Committee Chairperson



The Fundraising Committee meets the third Thursday of each month from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM at Family Services of Central Massachusetts, Inc., 31 Harvard Street, Worcester. The Committee has been working on operationalizing the Network's strategic goals, breaking them down into specific objectives and action items. Each step has an identified timeline for completion. The primary goal is to raise funds to support the Network. Proposals have been made to potential donors in hopes of securing equipment for use by the Network for public awareness and fundraising presentations. Also, we hope to have a mail appeal for donations in the near future.

Network Committee Contacts

Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator
Strategic Planning Chairperson
508.756-4646
jbonina@fscm.org

Chris Nelson, Network Chairperson
FATHERS FEST Chairperson
508.755-1228
cnelson@pernetfamilyhealth.org

Jodi Koravos, Public Awareness Committee, Chairperson
508.791-4976, Extension 217
jkoravos@southbaymentalhealth.com

Deb Kott, Fundraising Committee, Chairperson
508.753-1260
dkott@cfs.org

Karen Waters & Liz Sheldon, Co-Chairpersons
Newsletter Committee ~ See Page 2



Public Awareness Committee Report By Jodi Koravos, Chairperson



First, I would like to thank the Network for providing me the opportunity to be the Chairperson of the Public Awareness Committee. I am personally and professionally very connected to the mission of promoting responsible fatherhood, and through the amazing efforts of the Public Awareness Committee, this mission of the Network is making its way to the forefront of human services in Worcester County. Within the Public Awareness Committee there are five subcommittees: Speakers Bureau, Training, Website, Newsletter and Fathers Fest.

The Speakers Bureau has been meeting regularly to develop a consistent presentation for training and fundraising appearances. The Speakers Bureau has the intention that regardless of the public appearance, the message from the speakers will be formal and uniform. The members of the Speakers Bureau, including Jack Bonina, Chris Nelson, and Liz Sheldon, are currently working on developing a PowerPoint presentation, which will clearly and succinctly deliver the Network's message in any public appearances.

The Training Subcommittee valiantly pulled together a workshop for December 7, 2006, in which Sam Kauffmann, an Associate Professor of Film at Boston University, presented his film *Show Your Love* and spoke with attendees about the impact of this film. Please see Jack Bonina's report of the event on the front page of this newsletter for more details.

Liz Sheldon and Karen Waters have done an excellent job in dusting off the cobwebs from the *Network News*, as evidenced by these first two issues of 2007. As the Network further develops, we are also working on updating the Network's website regularly. If you have not seen the website lately, please be sure to check it out at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org!

What is South Bay Mental Health?

By Jodi Koravos, Clinic Director

South Bay is a community-based, behavioral healthcare center offering a continuum of services including Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling, Day Treatment and Partial Hospital Programs, and Early Intervention. Our mission is to encourage the self-sufficiency of disadvantaged people through behavioral health care that is grounded in the community. **South Bay** values **commitment, collaboration, accountability, innovation** and **integrity**.

We Believe...

- all individuals and families have the ability to learn, grow, and succeed in their lives
- treatment begins with identifying potential and defining strengths
- in providing multidisciplinary treatment with adherence to the highest ethical and professional standards
- in an environment of safety and respect for the value of each individual and the diversity of human experience
- in the timely response to the needs of our consumers and referral agents
- in maximizing resourcefulness to expand services for an ever-changing community
- in cost-effective services and accountability for achieving outcomes
- that all individuals need to achieve self-sufficiency

South Bay Mental Health in Worcester is located at 340 Main St., Suite 383. This office provides community-based mental health services to most of Worcester County and accepts MassHealth insurance. If you would like more information about **South Bay**, please contact Jodi Koravos, Clinic Director at 508.791-4976, Extension 217, or jkoravos@southbaymentalhealth.com.

Please also visit our website at www.southbaymentalhealth.com!

For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646



What is the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network?

By Jack Bonina, Founder & Network Coordinator

I am often asked, "Why is it necessary to have a coalition that addresses 'Responsible Fatherhood'? Don't fathers know they are supposed to be responsible for their children?" The answers to these questions are not as easy as they may first appear. First, without a doubt, the overwhelming majority of fathers are interested in their child's well being. Many fathers do a wonderful job of co-parenting and investing in their children through their time and resources. However, for many other fathers, the answers are not as clear. Divorce and separation, along with changing family demographics in which parents have never lived together, can impact on consistent and active involvement by fathers. Lack of parenting skills, inadequate support, and unfavorable visitation schedules complicate a dad's ability to be involved. Sometimes fathers battle their own issues; such as, shame that they don't have enough money because of inadequate education and vocational skills, substance abuse, or even incarceration. Sometimes they want help, but don't know where to turn because services don't exist or are only available at times that conflict with rigid work schedules.



The Worcester County Fathers & Family Network is here because we believe that children suffer when fathers are not involved in an active, consistent, or healthy way. Research clearly shows that children do better in many ways when fathers are involved. They will get better grades in school, have increased self-esteem, have better mental health, and are less likely to commit crimes as juveniles. Teenage girls are at a significantly lower risk for pregnancy. We know that it's not always possible for fathers to be involved, but the Network believes that by working together as a community, we can improve our support systems for families. When both fathers and mothers are involved and working together for their children, we will all benefit.

We hope that you will help the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network carry out its mission by pledging your financial support. Please address checks to **WCF&FN, c/o Family Services of Central Massachusetts, and mail with your completed donation coupon below to 31 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609.** With your support, we can make a difference in the lives of children.



Enclosed is my tax-deductible, charitable contribution for \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____ in a check made payable to the *Worcester County Fathers & Family Network, c/o Family Services of Central Massachusetts, and mailed to 31 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609.*

My name is: _____
(First Name - Middle Initial - Last Name)

My address is: _____
(Street, City/Town, State, Zip Code)

E-mail address: _____ Telephone No.: (_____) _____ - _____



**News from the
Central Massachusetts Men's Resource Center, Inc.**
By Stuart Moskowitz, MA, Executive Director
CMMRC, 338 Highland Street, Box 14, Worcester, MA 01602-2143

Dr. Evan Graber, Chairperson, Dr. Chuck Stuart, and other members of CMMRC have been taking the *Tough Guise* documentary on the road to college campuses across the City of Worcester. The CMMRC is committed to showing this video on all of the local college campuses this year. CMMRC has already shown it to student and general public audiences at Assumption College, WPI, and Quinsigamond Community College. We plan to show it at Worcester State College and Clark University in the Spring of 2007. Audience participation has been encouraged to dialogue around their reactions to this documentary. We have partnered with staff of the Rape Crisis Center of Central MA in some of these presentations.

Tough Guise is a 1999 documentary co-created by Jackson Katz, an anti-sexist male activist. He is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in the field of gender violence prevention education. In this documentary, he illustrates the connection between media imaging in the popular culture and how it strongly influences the construction of the male identity. He suggests that men and boys develop a tough guise or mask to project a sense of strength and virility. When men or boys do not conform to this tough guise, they are considered weak, a baby, or 'fag'.

Jackson Katz suggests that popular media is crucial in reinforcing the idea that violent masculinity has become a cultural norm. In the documentary, he discusses the fact that men are responsible for 90 % of the violence in the society. He gives examples how the media sanitizes the message by using generic terms such as 'kids killing kids', rather than saying boys are killing girls and boys, as in the recent school shootings, such as at Columbine High School. He states further that the image of what is masculine has become more physical and aggressive, with the media showing men being more muscular and violent with bigger and bigger weapons *a la* Arnold Schwarzenegger in the *Terminator* and Sylvester Stallone as *Rambo*. He shows how toy models of Superman, GI Joe, and Batman have grown in size over the last thirty years, making men look more unrealistic in their body size. He also demonstrates how, in the popular culture, we have celebrated violence in such sports as football and wrestling.

At the end of the video, he depicts some positive changes in the media portrayal of masculinity where men are shown to be more sensitive and nurturing, instead of being violent and cold, in movies such as *Good Will Hunting* and *Boyz in the Hood*. He makes some recommendations as possible solutions to this dilemma of the portrayal of men as violent and dominant in their relationships, such as representing more vulnerable men as a healthier male image rather than an image of weakness. He also encourages that women can play a part by rejecting the 'tough guise' that some men might portray.

Please support our mission of developing healthier images of masculinity by attending our meetings or our presentations of *Tough Guise*. Please contact Stuart Moskowitz, MA, Executive Director of the Central MA Men's Resource Center, Inc., for further information at 508.752-5880, Extension 16, or by e-mail at smoskow@charter.net.

For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646

Incarcerated Fathers Program

A Collaboration with the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network

By Christopher Nelson, Director ~ Fathers and Family Program, Pernet Family Health Service

In February of last year, Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a grant from the Health Foundation Activation Fund to implement a program for incarcerated and recently released fathers. The Fathers and Family Program was established as a collaboration project between Pernet Family Health Service, Y.O.U. Inc., the Worcester County House of Correction, Dismas House, and the Worcester County Fathers & Family Network.

Our own Network Coordinator, Jack Bonina, chairs the Professional Advisory Council to Pernet's Fathers and Family Program. This group, consisting of representatives from each of the collaborative agencies as well as other community volunteers from the Department of Revenue, Jeremiah's Inn, South Bay Mental Health Clinic, the Men's Resource Center of Central MA, a retired Head of Probation, and a former inmate, meets monthly. The Professional Advisory Council has played an integral part in the implementation of the program. In particular, Mike Norton, the Head of Case Management Services from the Worcester House of Correction, was instrumental in coordinating meetings and our initial point of entry at the jail.

The Fathers and Family Program began implementation in May, offering a weekly parenting group at the jail and an additional group at Almost Home. The goal of the program is to support fathers in regard to strengthening the connection that they have with their children and teaching emotional literacy, self-healing and forgiveness. The groups have used weekly journals as a therapeutic vehicle of self-exploration. Each week, group members are asked a question that they answer in their journals. They are then invited to share their journal entry with the group the following week, if they feel comfortable.

The response from the group has been very positive. One inmate said, "It's good that you guys come up here. Nobody else up here talks to us about this stuff." Several group members from the jail and Almost Home have come to tears as they read their journal entries. Another group participant said, "This stuff is really hard to look at, but I know I have to look at it as part of my recovery." It is clear that group members who are able to get in touch with their emotions seem to get the most out of the Parenting Group experience.

The Health Foundation grant expired as of February 1, 2007. The Worcester County Sheriff's Department has provided funding to run another ten-week group at the jail. It is our hope and ongoing objective to find long-term funding to sustain and expand this innovative program that impacts so many Worcester County families. If you are able to lend your support to this unique and innovative program, or are able to provide recommendations for potential funding, please contact Christopher Nelson, Fathers and Family Program Director at Pernet Family Health Service, Telephone 508.755-1228, or by e-mail at cnelson@pernetfamilyhealth.org.



PERNET

family health service



NEWS

Community Bulletins

NETWORK



WELCOME, MARLON! *MSPCC Hires Young Father's Advocate*

MSPCC's Healthy Families Program is pleased to announce the hiring of Marlon Perez as the Young Father's Advocate! Marlon comes to MSPCC with over seven years experience working with youth on substance abuse prevention, setting personal goals, connecting to community agencies and teaching basic life skills. Before coming to MSPCC, Marlon was the Youth and Family Advocate for LUK, Inc., in Fitchburg providing intensive case management services to middle-school-aged youth and their families. Marlon earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster. He is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Marlon looks forward to working with and empowering Young Fathers under the age of 21 with their first child through the Healthy Families Program. He hopes to start a Young Fathers Support Group in the near future. He would also like to take this opportunity to thank the neighboring agencies who have welcomed him to the Worcester community.

All Healthy Families services are provided free of charge and referrals are made on a voluntary basis. Agency as well as self referrals are welcome. To make a referral to Healthy Families, please call 508.753-2967.

Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts, Inc. 2007 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts, Inc., has openings available for Human Service Providers who wish to attend any or all of the remaining sessions in their 2006-2007 training series, as follows:

- April 12, 2007 ~ An Overview of Changes in the Social Security Administration System**
- May 10, 2007 ~ Elder Abuse and Exploitation**

Information and registration forms are available from LACCM by contacting Linda Boss at 508.752-3722, Extension 3035, or e-mail, lboss@laccm.org. Questions about the training series should be addressed to Terry Lacava at 508.752-3722, or by e-mail, tlacava@laccm.org.

Additional Training Opportunity:

- June 7, 2007 ~ Know Your Rights**

Focuses on persons in substance abuse recovery. Sponsored by LACCM in conjunction with various community agencies. Additional information will be forthcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28, 2007 ~ Employment and Benefits Conference

A free training about work for people with disabilities (in Spanish & English)
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM; Worcester Public Library-Saxe Room, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA
Sponsored by Disability Law Center, Inc., and BenePLAN ~ Website: www.dlc-ma.org
For information and registration ~ E-mail: mail@dlc-ma.org ~ Telephone: 800.872-9992

June 16, 2007 ~ FATHERS FEST 2007

Fun for the whole family...come celebrate responsible fatherhood!
Rain or Shine ~ 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM; Institute Park, Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA

For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646



Worcester Family Ties Network

- ♦ **Playgroups:** Open to all Worcester residents with children birth to age four. The groups meet weekly for approximately one and one half hours at a variety of times and locations. The groups provide parents and children an opportunity to socialize with other young families and to learn new activities. For more information, please call 508.799-3136 or visit www.worcesterfamilyties.org.
- ♦ **Adult Education Classes:** (G.E.D., ESOL) Offered by Family Ties Network to Worcester families with children ages 0-3. Child care and transportation available. For more information, contact 508.799-3136.

Events: For information or registration, contact Beth Vietze at 508.799-3136 or vietze@worc.k12.ma.us

- ♦ **April 9, 2007 ~ 5:30 PM** *Parenting With Style*

Presented by Worcester Family Ties Network.

Event Location: Mill Swan Head Start, 337 Mill Street, Worcester, MA ~ Registration required

Presented by Mara Briere. A discussion of parenting based on the Myers Briggs Type Inventory. How does your child's temperament affect how the child learns, plays, and communicates? How does your temperament interact with your child's?

- ♦ **April 23 & 30, 2007 ~ 5:30 PM** *Parenting with Love and Logic*

Presented by Worcester Family Ties Network.

Event Location: Mill Swan Head Start, 337 Mill Street, Worcester, MA ~ Registration required

Presented by Mara Briere. For parents with children birth to age 5. An introduction to the basic concepts of parenting in a loving and responsible way; including, teaching responsibility, setting limits, and developing self-esteem.

- ♦ **April 25, 2007 ~ 10:30 AM** *Intergenerational Concert to Celebrate the Week of the Young Child*

Sponsored by the Worcester Cultural Commission.

Event Location: Worcester Public Library ~ Saxe Room, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA

Bring your grandparents, bring your grandchild, and enjoy the music of "Caribbean for Kids".

For more information, contact Worcester Family Ties Network, 508.799-3136.

- ♦ **May 9, 2007 ~ 4:00 PM** *Helping Your Child Transition to School*

Presented by Worcester Family Ties Network, Worcester Public Schools, and Child Development Head Start.

Event Location: Mill Swan Head Start, 337 Mill Street, Worcester, MA ~ Registration required

- ♦ **Date/Time/Place To Be Determined** *Parenting As A Team*

Presented by the Worcester County Fathers and Family Network and Worcester Family Ties Network.

Pernet Family Health Service

- ♦ **Father's Parenting/Support Groups**

Weekly group for custodial and non-custodial fathers 20 years old and older meets Tuesday night from 5:45 PM to 7:15 PM at Pernet Family Health Service, 237 Millbury Street, Worcester.

No insurance or fee required. For more information call Chris Nelson at 508.755-1228.

Central Massachusetts Mens Resource Center

- ♦ **Tough Guise** ~ Dates and Locations for Spring Presentations To Be Announced (*See Article, Page 6*)

National Initiatives for 2007

- ♦ **April 2007** ~ Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month
National Stress Awareness Month & National Minority Health Month—Encourage dads to get an annual physical and to speak with their health care providers about health concerns.
- ♦ **May 2007** ~ National Military Appreciation Month ~ "Support Our Military; Support Our Veterans"
- ♦ **June 2007** ~ National Safety Month ~ "Celebrating Safe Communities"



Practical Health Tips For You And Your Family

from Anne Zettek-Sumner, RN, M.Ed., Fallon Clinic Foundation Lifetime Center

Be careful about giving medicine. Children are not just 'little adults'!

Give babies and children only those medicines that are especially formulated for their weight and age.

- Know your child's current weight.
- Don't cut adult-strength table in half or try to estimate how much adult-strength liquid you child should take.

Use the specific dropper, dosing cup or other device that comes packaged with your child's medicine.

- Using a kitchen spoon or a dosing device from another medication can result in giving the wrong dose.

Source: National Council on Patient Information and Education, 2006

WORCESTER COUNTY
FATHERS & FAMILY NETWORK
Presents
FATHERS FEST
June 16, 2007
Institute Park, Worcester, Massachusetts

~ Sponsored By ~

Contact us NOW to be a 2007 sponsor!

Sponsors: The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce, Child Development Head Start, Worcester County Commercial Bank & Trust, Blue Cross, 96.1 WBRB, WTAG 580, Hanover Insurance Group.

IT'S TIME TO PURCHASE YOUR FATHERS FEST 2007 PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT!

Please support your Worcester County Fathers & Family Network!

For advertising information and order forms, please e-mail Liz at: sheldon@dor.state.ma.us

For more information or to become involved with the Network, please visit our web site at www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org

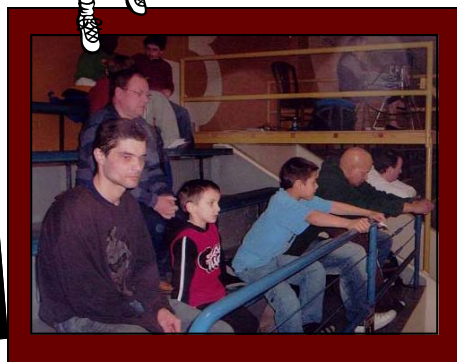
or contact Jack Bonina, Network Coordinator, at Family Services of Central Massachusetts: 508.756-4646

Photo Gallery

SHOW YOUR LOVE ~ December 7, 2006
Elm Park Community School ~ Worcester, MA



Dads & Kids Luncheon & Basketball Game ~ February 17, 2007
College of the Holy Cross ~ Worcester, MA



PARENTHOOD PROGRAM

By Kristi Bruwer, Central Mass. Regional Manager
Training Resources of America, Inc.

Training Resources of America, Inc. (TRA)-Worcester Office, located at 332 Main Street, Suite 601, is a private non-profit organization that provides education, employment, and training services to educationally and economically disadvantaged youth and adults.

TRA-Worcester offers a number of education and training programs including the Parenthood Program operated in conjunction with the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Transitional Assistance. This exceptional program provides orientation, assessment, employment and training services, peer support, parenting skills, life skills, job readiness training, and job placement/retention to non-custodial parents residing in Worcester County. While enrolled in the program, participants come to class Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM where they participate in an array of exciting classroom workshops and activities in order to develop strategies to obtain and retain full-time unsubsidized employment. By obtaining full-time, unsubsidized employment, participants are able to meet their financial and family obligations.

Some of the recent workshops conducted this year have focused on topics such as economic literacy, self-esteem, family planning, substance abuse prevention, health and nutrition, conflict resolution, anger management, managing stress effectively, cover letter/resume preparation, interviewing techniques, job success, behavior in the workplace, and balancing work with family obligations.

If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact Jaime Flores, Parenthood Program Coordinator, at 508.753-2991.



NETWORK NEWS

Worcester County Fathers & Family Network
c/o Family Services of Central Massachusetts
31 Harvard Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

www.worcestercountyfathersandfamilynetwork.org