

"Restoring fathers back to the head of the family through the gospel of Jesus Christ"

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## **RESTORE's Seventh Annual Fatherhood Walk Scheduled for June 10**

(Toledo, OH) --- Mark Robinson, Founder and Executive Director, RESTORE, Inc., announced today that the Seventh Annual Fatherhood Walk, an event aimed at creating awareness of the roles fathers play in the lives of their children, will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Central Catholic High School, 2550 Cherry St., near Downtown Toledo.

Mr. Robinson made the announcement at a press conference in front of Central Catholic High School, along with two families who have participated in the six previous Fatherhood Walks.

RESTORE, a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization founded in 2006, hosts the annual community event which last year drew over 200 participants. Over 2,000 people have participated in the event over the last six years.

The two-mile walk through the surrounding neighborhoods will start and end at Central Catholic High School's parking lot. In addition to the walk, there will be family fun activities taking place immediately following on the school's lawn.

Sponsors and supporters for the 2017 Fatherhood Walk include The City of Toledo, McDonalds, Seaway Marketplace, Lucas County Family and Children First Council, House of Day Funeral Home, Systems Dynamics Communications, Buckeye Health Plan, Molina HeathCare, Walmart, Target, and TPS Head Start. Media sponsors are Buckeye Broadband, Lamar Advertising, WIMX 95.7 FM, and WTOL.

"We want to draw attention to the significant roles fathers play in the lives of their children," said Mr. Robinson. "Research confirms that children do better in every measure of development when there is a responsible father in their lives. The Fatherhood Walk is free to the community to show support of fathers, father figures, & mentors, and to strengthen families and the community."

Former Toledo City Councilwoman, Theresa M. Gabriel who is part of an honorary committee for the Fatherhood Walk echoed Mr. Robinson's comment.

"It's an absolute necessity that there be a male presence in the household," she said.

Brian McCarty and his children Peter and Maura; as well as Michael Jones and his son Michael Jones, Jr. participated in the press conference. Both families have been involved with RESTORE for seven years.

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## RESTORE Fatherhood Walk /4-14-2017/add one

"The walk has been beneficial because of the exposure to other fathers who have the same challenges," said Mr. Jones.

The Fatherhood Walk draws people from all races, creeds, and socio-economic backgrounds.

"You see all kinds of people showing up. In addition to fathers, you'll see grandparents, uncles, cousins, who all play a role in the life of a child. The Fatherhood Walk has become almost like a family reunion," said Mr. McCarty.

Those interested in participating in the walk can register on-line at RestoreFathers.org or the day of the walk. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Those interested in sponsorship opportunities or making a donation, can e-mail Mr. Robinson at restorefathers@aol.com or by calling 419-377-1488. Vendor tables are available for a small donation.

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## BACKGROUND – MARK ROBINSON

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, was founded in 2006 by Responsible Fatherhood Advocate, Mark Robinson MSW. Mr. Robinson, a social worker by profession, currently serves on the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) Board, which is a statewide collaboration that seeks to advance a fatherhood and family agenda at the state and local level.