

Father Talks

fathers connecting with their children



A Publication of the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative

October, 2019

Best Ever! 10th Annual Fame Fathers Walk

Principal's pet dog, Elec Simon, Pancakes, Firefighters, Probation Officers ...

The principal's pet dog helping with the Pirate Slide Dance, Elec Simon (Cleveland Cavaliers Entertainment Team) talking about respect for others during a student assembly, staff cooking pancakes for the fathers and father figures, and firefighters and probation officers escorting visitors, and then visiting several classrooms - just a few of the fun happenings at the 10th Annual Fame Fathers Walk!



More than 5,200 fathers and father figures took their children to 48 Summit County schools on September 19, 2019, to show their support for their children's education. Many schools had a short program to welcome them. More than 15 years of research tells us that when fathers and father figures are involved in their children's education, children perform better in school.



What We Heard ...

"Thank you for giving us a reason to invite dads into our school."

School Principal

"We really appreciated our volunteer probation officers and firefighters coming yesterday! Thank you so much!"

School Principal

"The thing I noticed most was that these fathers really wanted to be here, and they showed their appreciation. It was an invitation they couldn't pass up."

School Principal

"We appreciated the help from the probation officers and we received tremendously positive feedback from everyone." *School Principal (first time participant)*

"My staff and I made pancakes and coffee for everyone. We ate together and talked about the important role that fathers/father figures have in a child's education." *School Principal*

"I'm here every year, I enjoy doing this, I hope they keep this up". *Father*

"Students were beaming as they walked into the building. They were thrilled that an adult in their life took the time to bring them to school and enjoy breakfast with them before they headed to class for a day of learning. It was such a positive way to begin our day." *School Principal*

374 Fathers and 1,203 Children ...

SCFI agency partners have graduated a combined 470 fathers from their fatherhood classes in the 1st six months of 2019, and 374 of these fathers report to us that they are spending increased amounts of time with their children -1,203 children in all, This means that 1,203 children are enjoying the benefits of an increasingly involved, connected and responsible father. An involved and connected father usually results in improved self-esteem for the child - sure to benefit the child's school performance.

What Is SCFI?

SCFI is a collaborative, community initiative dedicated to helping men increase their fathering skills through programming, education and individualized services.

SCFI was founded by three, prominent Summit County fatherhood service providers - Pastor Eugene Norris of Fame Fathers, Don Lykes of Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio, and Frank Williams of Man2Man. SCFI is supported by Akron Community Foundation, Huntington-Akron Foundation, United Way of Summit County, and Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job & Family Services. Comments or questions about this publication, or about SCFI's programming and services, can be sent to Bill Macchione, william.macchione@jfs.ohio.gov

Dad's 1st Call 4 Help: Dial 2-1-1 www.summitfathers.org

