

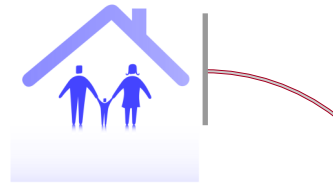
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Foundation***

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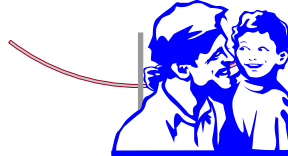
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**Fatherhood-Family
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Fatherhood-Family Initiative

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**A Program of the
Masonic Community Center
Foundation**



Mission

The mission of the Fatherhood-Family Initiative is to develop/facilitate a positive meaningful relation between male youth and responsible caring adult male role models and thus to strengthen families.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Fatherhood-Family Initiative is that various time and activity sharing programs designed for the father-son unit will foster bonding between the two.

Strategy

The strategy of the Fatherhood-Family Initiative is to develop sports, recreational and possibly other activities for the father-son unit. This will provide the opportunity of assessing the personal needs of the participants and of meeting these needs using the resources of the Masonic fraternity together with referrals and partnerships where appropriate.

The Father-Son Relationship

The Fatherhood-Family Initiative will help to strengthen the family and thereby improve the physical, social and mental well-being of the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska. It will help fathers bond with their offspring and help restore responsible fatherhood to the family, including the role of authority figure and family provider. For the purpose of this Initiative the term “father” is defined as a recognized responsible adult male figure or role model, including the biologic father, adoptive father, or other adult caring male. This Initiative is sharply focused to foster a healthy bonding between fathers and young males, i.e. the “Father-Son” relationship.

The Home Team Sports Club

An important key to establishing the “Father-Son” relationship is to promote time and activity sharing between the two. Sports and recreational activities provide an attractive incentive for father-son participation and by their nature they teach the importance of individual effort and responsibility, teamwork, dependability, honor, and their resultant rewards. These types of activities serve to stimulate initial interest in joining the program and will lead to opportunities for further education and participation in the program. Other father-son time and activity sharing projects may be useful, such as crafts, manual training and technical training.

The initial thrust of the Fatherhood-Family Initiative is to establish and/or strengthen the relationship and bonding of the male youth with their adult male role model using a basketball program as the basic matrix.



Masonic Community Center Foundation

“A Community Coming Together”

Omaha Masons recently established the Masonic Community Center Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) entity. Its purpose is to serve both the various Omaha Masonic organizations and the Omaha community in which they reside.

A Clear and Urgent Community Need

A major challenge of our generation is the fractured and dysfunctional family unit. That this is a serious community and national social, moral and economic problem is clearly evident in the daily news and is testified to by an abundance of statistics. The steady dissolution of the family structure over recent decades is linked to births out of wedlock, poverty, and the absence of the father living in the household.

A New Masonic Initiative for Omaha

The Masonic Community Center Foundation has developed the Fatherhood-Family Initiative that is designed to help address these critical issues. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska Free and Accepted Masons is in the forefront of implementing this important program. The Initiative is geared to sharing and partnership throughout the Omaha community whenever possible.