



Center Stage

The Newsletter of the
Center for Fathers and Families

The Expedition to Excellence...

Volume 1, Issue 1 ~ Fall 2003

In August, the Center for Fathers & Families began a new tradition ~ the Summer College Tour. Twenty teens from our AWARE (Adolescents Willing to Act Responsibly Everyday) and SISTAS (Sophisticated Individuals Striving Toward Academic Success) programs worked for several weeks – completing boot camp, homework assignments, teamwork training, and more to earn their spot on the coveted trip to Atlanta, Georgia. For many who have never been outside of Sacramento – this was the experience of a lifetime.

Where did they go? Spelman College, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Tech, the Martin Luther King Memorial, CNN, the Intel Computer Clubhouse in Atlanta.... just to name a few stops. We heard many accounts of the first airplane rides and the Georgia heat (some have learned that Sacramento isn't THAT hot after all!) We could give you our impressions of the trip, but we thought a few excerpts from their daily journals would be better:



SISTAS Ashley, Mercedes, Tanea & Netra visit Spelman College in Atlanta



The young men of AWARE visit the MLK Memorial

“On Tuesday, we went to Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University. This experience was a great one – for the first time in my life I saw a real university. It hit me... one day I could attend one of these colleges.”

(Upon visiting the MLK Memorial) “We got to see in person the man who helped the world be what it is today. That was such an honor... Today was the best day of the trip.”

“(This trip) helps me realize that college is something I want to be a part of.”

“Visiting the Intel Clubhouse Atlanta – the SISTAS had such a great time. When we had to leave and went to shake hands, the staff said, “Here in Georgia, we give hugs.”

“I loved when we went to the Clubhouse in Atlanta. They made us feel great and appreciated. I would love to go back there.”

“This has been the most exciting time of my life.”

At the Center, we firmly believe that higher education is an important goal for our students. And we are excited to begin putting together next summer's college tour to Boston, Massachusetts. ***If you would like to help support the Boston tour, please contact the Center at 916.424.3237. To see more pictures from the Atlanta trip, visit www.fathersandfamilies.com.***

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“Committed to Rebuilding Local Families”



THE CENTER FOR
Fathers and Families

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www.fathersandfamilies.com

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A Message From Rick...

In August 2003, the Center for Fathers & Families celebrated a 10th anniversary. Ten years of reaching out to fathers seeking to improve their role in the family. Ten years of helping single mothers take on both parenting roles. Ten years of guiding at-risk teens toward the path of leadership and responsibility.

I am proud of our accomplishments. And I am proud of the new traditions we have started this year with the Summer College Tour and the Salute to Fatherhood Banquet. At the Center, we're continuing to grow – and we are always seeking ways to help more families-in-need.

I welcome you to join in our efforts to rebuild local families and build stronger communities. Please contact me directly at 916.424.DADS (3237) to learn how you can get involved as a volunteer. You can also visit our website at www.fathersandfamilies.com or use the enclosed envelope to send a donation.

Together, we can continue to create a solid future for our children and their parents. Thank you.

*Timeless Truth:
Children soon forget their presents,
but not your presence.*

Many Thanks...

So many generous companies and individuals were major sponsors of our summer events and programs. In addition to the Banquet, we were proud to take part in Chip in Fore Charity on June 13th by holding the Rick Jennings Golf Jam 5. We were also honored to be beneficiary of Comstock's Business Magazine's Carlson Classic on September 17th. On behalf of the hundreds of children and adults served by the Center, we would like to say, "Thank you!"

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Ascent Builders
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Tim Lewis Communities
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Trader Joe's
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US Bankcorp
Vision Service Plan

Wells Fargo Bank
Williams & Paddon

XO Communications

Our sincere apologies to anyone whose name is inadvertently omitted or misspelled!

Spotlight on Special Events...

The Salute to Fatherhood ~ Another New Tradition!

The summer college tour was not the only new tradition the Center started this past summer. On June 11, 2003, we were proud to present the first annual Salute to Fatherhood Banquet.

The Salute to Fatherhood honored local fathers (and father-figures) who have demonstrated clear dedication to their role in the family. Nominations were submitted by the community – and it was hard to choose just one winner. In the end 15 men were honored.

The 2003 Fathers of the Year are:

Ron Bryant
Shelton Duruisseau
Armando Garcia
Maurice Geddes
Robert Hanna
Jerry Hignight
Carl Jackson
Sotiris K. Kolokotronis

Ray Mitchell
William Reed, Sr.
James Schanning
Ronald Lee Shelton
Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg
Doc Stephens
Dr. Ephraim Williams

It was powerful see each father accepted his award. After the event, several families let us know how important the evening was to them. One woman said, "That was the best present my husband could have gotten for Father's Day." One of our honorees added, "It was one of the most special nights of my life."

What did we learn from this event? There are many wonderful fathers and father-figures in our communities. Based on the feedback we received after the dinner - it was official - the Salute to Fatherhood Banquet will be an annual tradition. Next year, we are looking forward to celebrating again on **Thursday, June 17th, 2004 at the Sacramento Hilton**. Tickets and sponsorships are already selling quickly, and nominations for the 2004 Father of the Year are coming in. Don't miss your chance to take part in this incredible event!

We are very grateful to every sponsor, committee member, and volunteer who made this event and our golf tournaments a success!

To learn more about sponsorship, volunteering, or participation in our events, call Noelle at 424.DADS (3237) x 203.



Rick Jennings presents Father of the Year Sotiris Kolokotronis with his award during the Salute to Fatherhood Banquet in June.

Nominate your father or father-figure for the 2004 Father of the Year. For details, phone Noelle at 424.3237 or visit www.fathersandfamilies.com



***"I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection."
- Sigmund Freud***



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THANK YOU!!!

If you can help with an item on the Wish List or have a question about a special event, please contact Noelle at 424.3237 x203 or email noelle@fathersandfamilies.com

of our families!

And as the holidays approach, please consider donating a food basket or gift certificate for one

- Mentors & Tutors for our students!
- Board games
- A fish tank with fish & supplies
- A globe
- Tickets for local cultural & sporting events
- A ping-pong, foos ball, and pool table
- Laptop computers for our students
- A Macintosh G4

Wish List

Upcoming Events

May 2004

Rick Jennings' Golf Jam 6

Exact date & location to be announced

June 17th, 2004

2nd Annual Salute to Fatherhood

Sacramento Hilton

Submit your Father of the Year nominations!

August 2004

Summer College Tour

Boston, Massachusetts