

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH 24/7 DADS PROGRAM



EVERYDAY IS FATHER'S DAY AT CCBOH

BY KIMBERLY ALLEN PHOTOS BY CURTIS GREEN

RECENTLY, A PHOTO WENT VIRAL of a soaking wet father who, while clutching his briefcase and other items, also managed to hold an umbrella over his son's head to shield him from the elements. The internet broke over this basic gesture, which is just proof positive that fathers don't always get the credit they deserve.

This is what makes the Healthier Gener-

they can be with the right support system.

Completion of the Program depends upon meeting set criteria, and actively participating in all components of its 24-week curriculum.

WHY MALE HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

Because men are only half as likely as women to visit the doctor for preventive health services, Roosevelt Muhammad, President of TIME-ER Human Relations Consultant

NUMBERS DON'T LIE

Currently in its second cycle with fifteen participants, 24/7 DAD has already proven its worth by increasing the number of involved fathers who have a renewed commitment to their child(ren), and statistics further prove that this program is working in and for our community. Since 24/7 DAD began in April 2015, 95% of dads report learning responsible



ations 24/7 DAD Program (24/7 DAD) sponsored by the Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH) unique. By catering specifically to the needs of fathers and their children, 24/7 DAD lays a foundation that helps men learn essential "fatherhood skills" such as communication, emotional regulation, goal setting, problem solving, and care and child development. The Program also offers job readiness skills, educational opportunities, assistance with legal issues, financial literacy, and information on preventing repeat pregnancies. Such important life lessons can help to increase an absentee father's involvement with his child(ren) while simultaneously promoting family stability by strengthening co-parenting skills and familial relationships.

Participants are recruited by reaching out to mothers who are currently enrolled in the CCBOH's Healthier Generations Program (HGP). 24/7 DAD facilitators locate resources to help meet the specific needs of fathers who participate, many of whom are in their twenties. This attention to detail gives men the tools, skills, and confidence they lack, allowing them to become the parent they want to be and in many cases, already know

Firm Leadership and Educational Center Not for Profit, Inc., facilitates the 24/7 DAD meetings in what is known at the CCBOH as "The Locker Room." Equivalent to what some might refer to as a "man cave," this area utilizes sports items and analogies in order to create a comfortable atmosphere where fathers and sons can not only bond, but also receive vital information about male healthcare services. "Traditionally, men are taught not to complain or seek treatment for various ailments, injuries, and health problems," says Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan, District Health Director at the CCBOH.

The Locker Room setting also helps to instill the slogan/mentality that "Health Is Not A Game" by Muhammad, who has been working with young males for over 27 years. Serving as a health coach of sorts, Muhammad reminds men of the important roles of providers, protectors, and teachers they are expected to play in our communities. The Locker Room conversation also focuses on bringing awareness to preventable problems by offering male health assessments and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

fatherhood skills, while 85% report having a healthier co-parenting relationship with the mother of their child. This program has also contributed to increased confidence levels, as 75% of participating dads reported success with career opportunities, while 70% have enjoyed an increase in their ability to provide financial support for their child.

Given current success rates, the CCBOH's fatherhood initiative is looking forward to sending more dedicated fathers out into the world at its upcoming June 27 graduation.

*The Healthier Generations 24/7 DAD Program is a component of the Healthy Start Grant funding opportunity provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. For more information about the 24/7 DAD Program, call the CCBOH health educator at (678) 678-610-7481. **WRC***



#FATHERSMATTER

**Children Benefit in Many Ways
if Their Dads Are Involved in Their Lives.**

Clayton County Board of Health is building strong families through the Healthier Generations 24/7 DAD program, which is designed to increase and maintain the father's involvement with his children, improve co-parenting relationships and promote family resiliency.



Clayton County Board of Health
HEALTHIER GENERATIONS



**For More Information Contact,
Health Education Coordinator (678) 610-7481
www.claytoncountypublichealth.org**



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