



The mission of Midlands Fatherhood Coalition is to engage fathers in the positive support of their children and enhance support for fatherhood throughout the Midlands.

With sites in Richland, Lexington and Sumter Counties, MFC works holistically with fathers to receive parenting skills, have healthy relationships, economic stability and health and wellness. The goal is for children to have brighter futures.

For children, every outcome is better when they have an actively engaged father:

- Fathers play a primary role in the healthy development of their children. Love and support from both parents is crucial, but a father uniquely contributes to the intellectual, social and emotional well-being of his child.
- The sense of security and eagerness to explore is heightened in babies born to involved fathers.
- In early childhood, engaged fathers influence the development of self-esteem, risk-taking and cognitive functioning.
- Because fathers have a different parenting style, they bring another perspective to the family and help children develop more fully, too.
- Children are more likely to succeed because they feel confident and loved.
- Mothers gain critical help with parenting and meeting financial needs.
- The father's extended family is more likely to be engaged, providing even more support for children and parents.
- Adolescents and teens are less likely to experience trouble with substance abuse and teen pregnancy and more likely to stay in school, go to college and excel in career and economic achievements.
- For young adults, the father-child relationship directly links to positive life outcomes including successful marriages and positive relationships with their own children.

For communities, data shows that when fathers are engaged in positive ways, the impact is felt by the entire community through:

- Lower juvenile crime rates.
- Greater engagement by children at school.
- Increased stability for families and neighborhoods.
- Less stress on community services to support struggling families.
- Lower rates of child abuse and domestic violence.
- The odds that communities can break generational poverty cycles.
- Entire neighborhoods can see their standard of living lifted up when dads are a valued resource.

WAYS THE COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT US!

- Donate Men's Hygiene Kits- Toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, soap, washcloth, comb
- Donate Kids Activities Kits – Dad's can bring these home to positively engage their children for all ages- coloring books, games, craft kits, etc.
- Sponsor Father Child Activities and Back to School Events
- Sponsor a Meal During Peer Group Sessions
- Sponsor Graduation Events
- Sponsor A Father! Our program is 100% free to all dads in the community with minor children. \$2,500
- Sponsor An Evening with the Fireflies
- Sponsor the Daddy and Me 5K
- Sponsor and Attend "A Time for Fatherhood" events