

# Dateline:

www.dadsmakeadifference.org



**DADS**  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

A  
paternity  
education  
project of:

Concordia  
University  
Saint Paul  
and  
Minnesota  
Department of  
Human Services  
Child Support  
Enforcement Division

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DIFFERENCE STAFF:

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This is a NEW  
fax number!!!

## Speaking of Fatherhood...

By Jeffrey Jeanetta-Wark, MA., LICSW  
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### Using Father-Friendly Language

Inclusive, gender-specific and meaningful language is important in working more effectively with others. Most of us have adopted the language of (and about) fathering from the society in which we live and/or work. For example, "father," "dad," "papa," "stepfather," "stepdad," "foster father," "foster dad," and "old man" are common titles. On the other hand, professional vernacular brings out language like "paternity," "biological father," "non-custodial father," and even "deadbeat dad." We may interchangeably address, reference, and speak to men in the role of father with differing language. Whatever language we use, it is wise to consider that the intentional use of our language can be a door-opener or a door-closer in working with men in the role of the father.



### Why It Is Wise to Intentionally Cater Our Language

1. *Because many men in the role of the father are not the biological parent of the children they are fathering.* It is possible, therefore, that when they do search for fathering assistance, these men might feel more comfortable and less isolated in programs which more fully acknowledge (through language), the roles they portray in the lives of children and families.
2. *Because many men in the role of the father are usually geographically, emotionally and psychologically isolated from other fathers their age and from resources that are created for them specifically.* Intentional and effective use of our language can help make it easier for these men to find programs that could assist them in strengthening healthy involvement in the lives of their children and families.
3. *With language that attracts father-figures to services, the possibility exists for them to feel part of the team, to develop a sense of pride and to trust that they will benefit from group experience, from individualized efforts, and from community involvement.*

**Inclusive Language** needs to be part of each programmatic step we take. For example, the words we choose on the promotional flyers sent into the community should be "father-friendly." We can talk about the importance of father-figures in the lives of their children. We can give some interesting statistics about the capacity that men have to nurture and effectively raise children, or about the number of father-figures who are sole providers for their children in our state or community.

(Continued on page 3)

**Dads Make a Difference Mission: To promote the positive involvement of fathers and to educate youth about responsible parenting.**

## START THINKING about 2004-05 Teen Trainings

The 2003-04 school year is winding down. Check the dates and plan ahead for bringing teens to training next school year.

### DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

is a positive youth development, pregnancy prevention, paternity education program in which older high school teens, male and female, teach younger youth (grades 6-9) about the importance of fathers in children's lives, about the responsibilities of being a parent, and about making responsible choices about risky behavior so they don't become a parent before they are ready.



**TRAININGS** are for 10th - 12th grade male and female teens accompanied by at least one adult advisor. An equal number of males and females is preferred.

**FEE INCLUDES** training led by experienced adult and teen trainers, four meals, one night lodging, a copy of the *DMAD* curriculum, and a T-shirt or cap with the *DMAD* logo. *Travel or additional nights lodging are not included.*

### CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TRAININGS:

#### MANKATO TRAINING

Thursday - Friday,  
October 14-15, 2004  
Best Western Hotel  
Maximum 60 teens  
Registration Deadline October 1st

#### ST. PAUL TRAINING

Sunday - Monday,  
November 14-15, 2004  
Four Points Sheraton  
Maximum 150 teens  
Registration Deadline October 29th

### OTHER POSSIBLE TRAININGS:

*Dads Make a Difference* staff are exploring additional training locations throughout the state and additional dates in spring for the 2004-05 school year if

**REGISTRATION FEE** for the 2-day teen training:

\$50 per participant - teen or adult bringing teens

\$85 per participant - adults attending without teens or

out of state teens and adults

*Sliding fee or scholarships are available. Please inquire with staff.*

there is money in our budget to do more training. Please share any ideas you may have. Your feedback is important.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Dads Make a Difference* is again holding the line on its training registration fee for the 2004-05 school year as we do our best to keep the teen training affordable. As you can understand from what the fee includes, our actual cost per person is considerably more than what is charged. Please inquire if cost is still an issue and we'll negotiate a solution.

**BASED ON TRAINING FEEDBACK** from both participants and trainers, all *DMAD* trainings will likely be conducted using the 2-day model this school year. Please contact the Program Director if you have concerns.

**AN IMPORTANT COINCIDENTAL FACTOR** of the large 2-day training also supported by training feedback is the unique opportunity for teens to experience and learn from the many dimensions of diversity participants bring - ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic status, family type, geographic location, and life experience. *DMAD* involvement also provides opportunities for career exploration and appreciation of family.

**DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE** remains committed to providing a high-quality teen training experience for schools and agencies statewide. We are also committed to promoting **POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** by providing opportunities for teens to:

- Feel physically and emotionally safe
- Experience belonging and ownership
- Develop self worth through meaningful contribution
- Try new things and learn about themselves
- Develop quality relationships with peers and adults
- Discuss conflicting values and formulate their own
- Feel pride and accountability that comes with mastery
- Expand their capacity to enjoy life and know success is possible

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DETAILS . . .

Send all articles  
and photos to  
the Editor:

Jan Hayne

Concordia University  
275 Syndicate St. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55104-5494

## . . . AND DEADLINES

May Issue

Deadline:

April 15th

September

Issue Deadline:

August 15th

Photos can be returned  
if requested. Submis-  
sions are accepted year  
round and will be held  
for the next edition of  
the newsletter.

## Speaking of Fatherhood continued ...

We can enhance the wording with photos of father-figures caring for children and can describe these men in their roles of raising children. We can send the message visually that we have an environment that encourages healthy father-figure involvement in the lives of children throughout the life span. We can include in our publicity and in our program materials the images of fathers from differing ethnic backgrounds and of various ages.

**Gender Specific Language** is words and phrasing that caters to a more typical male thinking process. Often, words like “support,” “help,” and “need” send a message to men that they don’t easily identify with. Typically, males don’t like to think they need anything from anyone and needing help or support may cause them to feel too vulnerable and that their sense of masculinity may be threatened. Instead, we can choose words like “enable,” “manage,” “become,” “accomplish,” “resources,” “opportunities,” “strengths,” “skills,” and “capacities.”

**Meaningful Language** to a father-figure can be words and actions that reinforce the concept that his children need him and that he can be the caring and present father-figure his children need. No one parent knows it all and there is no parent user’s manual that comes with children. The learning process never stops, yet each man brings his own personal gifts to parenting. It is wise to remind the father-figures of their unique gifts, their personal assets, and their capacities, (instead of their deficits). We can encourage them from wherever they are in the parenting process. We can remind them and highlight their capacity to be the nurturing father-figures their children need. Gradually, their skills will rise to meet their own needs and those of their children.



**Person-First-Language** is another strategy for using language well. It is mindfully using language with respect for all people while focusing on their abilities, not their limitations. The idea is that we focus on the person instead of the challenge they have. For example, instead of saying: “He is learning-disabled”, we would say, “He is a person who has a learning disability”. Instead of saying: “He is an HIV / AIDS victim”, we would say, “He is a person living with HIV / AIDS.” Other examples are the following: instead of saying: “She is a welfare mom”, we would say, “She is a woman who receives welfare support.” Instead of saying: “He is a deadbeat dad,” we could say, “He is a man who has yet to fulfill his child support payments.” Person-First-Language allows people to have their dignity during challenging times and it reminds us that people are not “cases,” they are people with whom we are collaborating for the sake of change. They are people before they are the problems which impact their lives.



Using inclusive, gender-specific, and person-first-language with father-figures is a way that we show intentional and compassionate action for those we wish to assist. Through these actions we stand a better chance of attracting, engaging, and empowering father-figures to use resources that can ultimately enhance their connections to children and families.

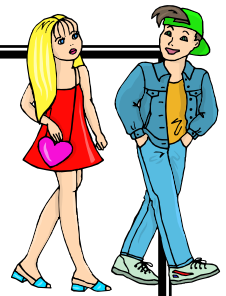
**Jeffry Jeanetta-Wark, M.A., LICSW** is a clinical social worker/psychotherapist in private practice. He combines effective clinical work for individuals and families with community-based education through presentations, trainings, and workshops. Jeffry is a national presenter, a curriculum trainer, and an advocate related to fathers and families. He and his wife, Wendy, are the proud parents of two young boys, Niccolo and Angelo.

### **We’re still working on revisions to *The R Factor* !!!**

A variety of factors have delayed our release of the revised curriculum, but we’re ALMOST done and promise that if you’re an *R Factor* customer you’ll have it in hand for the start of the new school year. We are revising the curriculum to include updated statistics, updated expert articles, and more current supplementary articles, as well as a new theme-based index to activities that will be located in the front of the curriculum to help you find just the right activity for your class.

Please contact Jan Hayne at 651-603-6312 or hayne@csp.edu if you would like updates to your current copy OR if you are interested in purchasing *The R Factor* for use with your students.





## Together, **WE** can build hope in young people's lives.

Here is what **YOU** can do to support *May Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month*.



1. Find out about and participate in local events and programs focused on preventing teen pregnancy and promoting adolescent health. Call your local public health department or MOAPPP to find out what is happening in your community.
2. Gather current data on teen pregnancy/ birth rates in your county. Visit the MOAPPP website.
3. Have an open conversation about sexuality with your child or an adolescent you care about.
4. Understand the causes/ consequences of teen pregnancy. Use the MOAPPP Teen Pregnancy Puzzle as a guide to beginning the discussion.
5. Convene a group of teens or adults in your community to discuss what your community is doing to prevent teen pregnancy and to promote adolescent health. Find out if these programs have been evaluated or are effective. Visit [www.mnstateplan.org](http://www.mnstateplan.org) for eight recommendations to prevent teen pregnancy.



6. Generate letters to the editor. Editorials in the local papers provide the data and ideas for your community to get involved. Arrange for editorial board visits with educators, parents, and teens to communicate the theme of ***Building Hope, Building Lives***.
7. Call your legislators and school board members and let them know you care about preventing teen pregnancy and want evidence-based programs in your community and schools. Visit [www.etr.org/recapp](http://www.etr.org/recapp) for information on evidence-based programs.
8. Have the Health Board/ Mayor/ Governor pass a resolution declaring May Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month. Visit the MOAPPP website for a sample proclamation.
9. Visit the MOAPPP website [www.moappp.org](http://www.moappp.org) for lots of great information. Contact Lisa Turnham from MOAPPP at 651-644-1447 or 800-657-3697 if you need additional assistance.
10. Tell a young person that you have **HOPE** for their future...and tell them why.



### **"CHANGE"**

A Musical About Growing and Healing Relationships

- Change (chanj) v. 1. To cause to be different; transform; modify; alter**  
**2. To give and receive reciprocally**

Music and theatre provide a powerful tool that allows viewers, either alone or in groups, to reflect deeply on how they can build and strengthen their interactions and relationships with the people that mean the most to them. The musical *CHANGE* invites the audience to journey with two people as they walk through a transition in their relationship. The couple is joined by friends who comment on and interact with the couple, adding the different voices needed in order to explore the subject of relationships from several angles. An original score and from the heart scene work make "Change" a moving and inspiring event.

*CHANGE* helps to remind us that relationships are precious, and that to truly honor them we must use love, patience, and forgiveness. There are struggles in all relationships, yet there is always hope for positive change. The songs of *CHANGE* can help us see that if we are willing to listen, risk being vulnerable, and make healthy choices in our lives, our relationships can truly prosper.

*CHANGE* is excellent for personal viewing and for use in businesses, faith communities, and organizations where communication and the quality of relationships is a high priority.

*CHANGE* is available in DVD / VHS formats, Videos are \$19.95 plus shipping, DVD's are \$24.95 plus shipping

Orders can be taken via email at: [KMsister@Ties2.net](mailto:KMsister@Ties2.net) or over the phone at 952-447-9980 or through US mail at: Kara Millerhagen \* 6976 Taylor Drive \* Savage, MN 55378

**Dads Make a Difference Request for Training Registration Forms  
2004 - 2005 School Year**

Return this form by mail to: **Jan Hayne \* Dads Make a Difference \* Concordia University  
275 Syndicate Street North \* St. Paul, MN 55104-5494**

Or return this form by fax to: **651-603-6327**

Or call any DMAD staff person to request registration forms be mailed to you.

Please send me training registration forms as indicated:

**MANKATO Training**

**Thursday-Friday, October 14-15, 2004**

*\* Registration Deadline is Friday, October 1st \**

**ST. PAUL Training**

**Sunday-Monday, November 14-15, 2004**

*\* Registration Deadline is Friday, October 29th \**

\_\_\_\_\_ Teens

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults

Questions or Concerns:

PRINT YOUR NAME:

EMAIL:

SCHOOL / AGENCY:

ADDRESS:

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE:

PHONE WITH AREA CODE:

FAX:

**Dads Make a Difference 2003-2004 Highlights**

Dads Make a Difference conducted 3 teen trainings this school year reaching a total of 172 teens and 40 adults from 31 schools and community agencies. Participating groups included:

**URBAN**

Como High School  
United Cambodian Assn. (adult)  
Fremont Clinic  
Roosevelt High School  
Summit Academy  
Humboldt High School  
South High School  
Young Men in Transition  
Northeast YMCA

**SUBURBAN**

Carver-Scott Educational Co-op  
Chaska High School  
Columbia Heights High School  
Harmony ALC  
North St. Paul High School  
Tartan High School  
Minnetonka High School  
Robbinsdale Armstrong High  
Robbinsdale Cooper High  
Roseville Area High School  
Henry Sibley High School

**GREATER MN**

Blue Earth High School  
Butterfield-Odin High School  
Fairmont High School  
Fairmont ALC  
Tracy High School  
Nicollet Public School (adult)  
Bug O Nay Ge Shig School  
Long Prairie High School  
St. James High School  
Northfield ALC

**NATIONAL**

Peer Assistance Network of America (adult - Austin, TX)

In December 2003, DMAD celebrated its **10-year anniversary** with a special breakfast event. Skip Humphrey provided the opening welcome reminiscent of his earlier involvement with the program. T. Mychael Rambo sang a special song we commissioned him to write for the occasion. Many folks near and dear to our hearts were honored with gifts and certificates of appreciation for their ongoing support of DMAD. A special THANKS to ALL who have shared their wisdom and enthusiasm with the program over the years. We couldn't have done it without you!!

Dads Make a Difference  
Concordia University  
275 Syndicate Street N.  
St. Paul, MN 55104-5494

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## Shoulder to Shoulder: Resource for Parents of Teens

By MaryElizabeth Berglund, St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health

The way in which you raise teens can make a difference. This is true whether you're a two-parent, single-parent or other family type. Folks who study parenting say teens do better when parents:



- Are warm and supportive.
- Provide clear expectations.
- Model the respect they expect from their teen.

To get there, communication is essential. Parents should take the time to connect, to listen, and to keep the bond strong with our teens.

*Shoulder to Shoulder* is a newly launched campaign that provides information, support, and resources for parents of adolescents. This campaign grew out of a series of focus groups in 2002 with Twin Cities parents of adolescents ages 12-18. Parents felt there were few resources they could access that gave them practical solutions to many of the issues they were confronting with their teens. Over 70,000 parents of teens across Minneapolis and Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, and Scott Counties received a parent resource guide packed with strategies for raising teens and ways parents can have a positive influence in their children's lives.

A website offers news for parents of teens, event listings, links to local and national resources, research reports, parenting tips, and bulletin boards where parents can share information about parenting. Visit the website at: [www.shouldertoshouldermnnesota.org](http://www.shouldertoshouldermnnesota.org)

Anyone wishing a copy of the booklet can order single or multiple copies on-line. Single copies can also be ordered by calling your local health department if you live in one of the participating counties. The booklet is also available in Spanish.



## Building Hope, Building Lives: Prevent Teen Pregnancy

may is  
teen pregnancy  
awareness month