



Editor of the Fatherhood Focus Newsletter



Kenneth J. Waller, Jr. is the founder and developer of Fatherhood Focus, a program designed to train and mentor fathers, men, and youth. Ken currently serves as a consultant for educational institutions, faith based organizations and community mentoring programs. Ken's innovative ideas and approach to youth and adult mentoring is highly sought after, he motivates as he speaks to groups and has the gift of bringing out the best in organizations as a training facilitator.

For More Information :

Fatherhood Focus
PO Box 1135 Owings Mills MD
21117

(443)506-1026

Fatherhoodfocus@comcast.net

www.Fatherhoodfocus.org



Fatherhood Focus

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Father's Every DAY

When I think about Father's Day and its celebratory meaning I experience mixed emotions due to the joys and pains of raising children in sometimes less than ideal circumstances, however, we must still show up and give our children our all because we can not let them be disappointed. I celebrate those fathers who are doing what it takes to have a reason to enjoy this special day and everyday with their children.

Many men are misled by what being a father really means, because too many times I hear men say that they are fathers because they have 'fathered' a child. Well! Here's news alert...it takes more to be a father than to just make a baby. Your contribution to the process of bringing a child into the world does not automatically propel you into fatherhood. I have been on both sides of fatherhood and experienced the highs being a father myself and the lows being a child whose father was not in my life. However, my experience as a child has blessed me to be the father that I am today....a dedicated and present father. I am not bitter because of my father, but better because of him. He functioned to the best of his ability not my expectation and because of that I have grown as a man and as a father.

I interviewed several children and asked them to give me what they thought were good characteristics of a good father and some of their responses included - shows unconditional love, provider, protector, spends quality time, caring, teacher, leader, friend, disciplinarian, strong, and supportive. It takes much more than just the biological process to nurture, love, teach, encourage, and raise a child, but why take my word for it...just ask your child (ren).



The Responsibility of Fatherhood

The role and responsibility of a father should not be taken lightly! In this country, the number of irresponsible fathers is astounding. According to the Census Bureau, 13.7 million single parents are raising 21.8 million children in 2008. 82% percent of those custodial parents were mothers, and 54% of them received no child support. It's time for our men to step up and take on our responsibilities. When addressing this issue with several fathers, we found that the "missing in action" dad didn't have a clue to how they should approach this situation.

One thing I suggest is building a mutual relationship with the mother, focus solely on the child. Mothers, please do not let the circumstances and bitter emotions from a failed relationship, keep fathers away from their children. Men, we cannot afford to let stress, the economy, and our selfishness take away from our fatherly duties. Studies continue to show that children that grow up without their father's love, guidance, and financial support are more likely to get involved in criminal activities, as well as becoming parents themselves at an early age. If you really think about it, most young men grow up wanting to be like their father or any other male figure around. Our young ladies have the tendency to look for qualities in men that they experienced firsthand from fathers or any male figures their around. Men, we have to be a positive role models for our children. It's really sad that in this society that we are lacking good living examples of men that are good examples for our youth to glean from. The traits of a responsible man are sacrifice, maturity, discipline, patience, understanding and a strong faith in God.

We thank God for strong women who have had to step up, due to the lack of fathers in the household, although nothing can replace the God given, authoritative role of the male-seed....the FATHER. Men, it's time to MAN-UP and women please continue to encourage us!

Note From The Editor

Greetings,

Thank you for taking the time to read the inaugural edition of the Fatherhood Focus Newsletter. Publication of this newsletter will be released monthly. I am very excited to bring you stories, suggestions and people who shape our community and the world. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring forth awareness to the plight and responsibility of fathers, and men. As we all know, men play a very important role in our families, churches, and communities.

The monthly publication of this newsletter will not only highlight issues and stories that effect men, but will also include articles about women, youth, family, and other positive organizations. Our goal is to bring forth useful information and news that you may not get from main stream media.

I pray that you will find this newsletter encouraging, uplifting, and enjoyable. I encourage you share this newsletter with friends and family all over the world.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Waller Jr.