



Community Action, Inc.  
of Central Texas

DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES

Texas Home Visiting Program  
Good People • Great Parents



# FATHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Being involved with your child makes all the difference in the world

March 2016

Issue 8

## Celebrating Fatherhood! A Conference Organized by Central Texas Agencies

A father is one of the most important people in our families and in our society today. With that said, we believe that fathers should be celebrated more than just once a year. So May 28, 2016 we are inviting fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, adult brothers, and any other father figure that is within driving distance, to come be celebrated.

We will have motivational and passionate fathers share their stories and strategies to help us all be the best we can be for our children. There will be numerous prizes and awards, breakfast and lunch, and an exciting atmosphere created by music, dad décor, and you, all for **FREE**.

To register for this free impactful event, you can visit our website at [www.celebratefatherhood.com](http://www.celebratefatherhood.com). Feel free to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Links can be accessed from the website. If your company would like to help sponsor this event or become a vendor, you can find details online as well. That's not all, your kids of all ages can get involved in the "Amazing Dad Contest". Help us spread the word!

#CelebratingFatherhoodCentex



Head Start dad volunteering



Incarcerated Father with his kids

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas  
Developing Opportunities  
Texas Home Visiting Program  
Good People • Great Parents

**CELEBRATING FATHERHOOD!**  
A CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY  
CENTRAL TEXAS AGENCIES

[www.celebratefatherhood.com](http://www.celebratefatherhood.com)

COME CELEBRATE FATHERHOOD WITH US  
**MAY 28, 2016**  
9am-4pm  
501 East Hopkins Street  
San Marcos, TX 78666

**LEARN FROM COMMUNITY EXPERTS ON HOW YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PARENTING SKILLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

**FATHERS SHOULD BE CELEBRATED MORE THAN ONCE A YEAR**

The Conference is open to fathers, father figures, and men of all ages from all areas. We are wanting to celebrate fathers to encourage them to be the best dads they can be for their children. As children see a positive role model in their father, it will help to create an environment where their children can grow and reach their full potential. When fathers are actively involved in the lives of their children, children do better in all areas of life

**REGISTER FOR THIS FREE CONFERENCE AND RECEIVE A T-SHIRT**

*"My father just plain wasn't there. He was a stranger... my step pops wasn't even a man. Mom was dad and time was father."*

*- Incarcerated Inmate  
from Central Texas*

## You Are More than the Mistake You've Made

For the past few months, I have had the privilege to be a guest speaker within the criminal justice system. The topic I was invited to address was Parenting with an emphasis on Fathering. The hearts of the individuals I have met are that of resilient warriors.

They have had ups and downs, but strive to do better and be the best version of them they can be. One young man commented about his dad. He said, "My Father, just plain wasn't there, he was a stranger. So in my eyes, I'm not gonna just talk to a stranger. We had a real conversation when I was 17 and still, I don't know the guy. Step pops wasn't even a man. Mom was a dad and Time was father."

Despite their upbringing, these individuals realize they have something to fight for and a reason to change. I always leave them with, "You are more than the mistakes you have made. Always room for change."

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and program.

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communityaction.com/  
texas-home-visiting

Or Facebook @  
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**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK  
GROUP :**

**FATHERS IN HAYS  
COUNTY**



# Teen Fathers Get the Big Picture

by D. David Bryant

I am so proud of the 12 teen fathers that I work with. They have overcome many obstacles and hurdles in their young lives while continuing to run toward their future with excitement. The ages of these teen fathers children range from 5 months in the womb to 2 ½ years old. I just wanted to share with you, some exciting things about these young fathers.



Dad 1 realizes the importance of his role as father. He told his friend they can't just call him at the last minute to see if they can hangout. He says he is a father now and his family come first. He asks for a 2 week notice from his friends, so he can plan his hang out time around his family and job.

Dad 2 was able to let down his "I'm hard, don't mess with me" wall, to actually allow me speak into his life despite coming from a fatherless home himself.

Dad 3 is starting to take his role a little more seriously now and understands his choices directly impacts his son.

For Dad 4, despite coming from a challenging home situation he vows to be the best dad he can be and is open to learning the new normal in parenting.

Dad 5 had a knee buckling event transpire in his young life, but knows that he is strong because of it. He always shows up to our group session with a smile.

Dads 6, 7, and 8 all have little girls and have shared challenges with me like doing their hair, or learning about tummy time, to just learning how to better communicate with the child's mother.

Dads 9 and 10 both hung around the wrong crowd prior to the births of their children. Since becoming fathers they have separated themselves a bit from guys who make poor choices.

Dads 11 and 12 are new fathers who are hands on. They have both checked in with me via text on fathering questions they have proving they are willing to learn.

## A Home Visitor's Impact with Families



Brandon on a home visit working with a Hays County family.

Brandon Gardner is the only male home visitor in Texas Home Visiting of Hays County. He along with our 7 other home visitors within hays county has been a great help transitioning good people to great parents. Brandon has a high rate of fathers participating at his home visits. From the enrollment of a family into our program he explains that whenever possible, parenting is a 2 parent approach. If you would like more information about Texas Home Visiting refer to Alex Mylius's number on the right.

Being involved with your child makes all the difference in the world