

TODAY'S DADS

2017 Edition, Issue 3

September 1, 2017



WFCF CHILI BOWL FUNDRAISER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

WFCF is breaking into the world of fundraising!

Join us for the first (hopefully annual) WFCF Chili Bowl. This event promises to be an afternoon of fun for everyone.

Go online and grab your tickets today at https://wfcf_chilibowl.eventbrite.com

Round up your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and come out and support the children of Wisconsin who are dealing with the effects of a divided home caused by divorce,

legal separation, or unmarried parents no longer living together.

What is the "Chili Bowl" it



is a family friendly combination event. There will be a bowl-a-thon which will offer

participants 75 minutes of unlimited bowling with shoe rentals included for a flat rate of \$40/per lane. Bring as few or as many people as you wish for this great low rate. We are offering 3 different start times for bowling. Reserve two or more lanes, put parents/adults on one lane and the kids on the other.

So that is the "Bowl" portion of "Chili Bowl" where does the Chili part come from? Well that is for the Chili Cook-Off.

We are hosting this event in

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
FNO Site Updates	3
Child Support Federal Performance Incentives	4
New Study Further Strengthens Case For Shared Parenting After	5
Pay It Forward Volunteer Today	6
Membership Application	7

We are Wisconsin's Oldest "Father's Organization" having been formed in 1988. We have been hosting our Monthly Support and Network Father's Night Out Meetings since 2000 and are a 100% volunteer organization that has always and will always believe that

Kids NEED BOTH Parents

10th FNO Starting in Green Bay this Month

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

September 2017 will bring some changes to two different Father's Night Out (FNO) Events.

First we must offer the sincerest of Thank You's to Roger Halls who has volun-

teered his time since 2014 as the FNO Manager for our NW WI (Eau Claire) monthly FNO Meeting. Roger has recently relocated to Mississippi with his family for a new job opportunity. Long time WFCF Member Jeff Erbs has graciously volun-

teered to take over the NW WI FNO. The event will stay on the Third Thursday of the month it will now start 30 minutes earlier at 6:30 p.m. and it will be moving from Milwaukee Burger

(Continued on page 5)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *Tommy Bickel*

MUCH has happened with WFCF recently, and we are poised to be even more active in the near future!



Since our last **Today's Dads** issue we have successfully reached out to the public through the **Cheese Fest** gathering in Fox Valley, by having an informative booth there. In September Chuck George, Kevin Monahan, and Alan Frey from the Fox Valley setup an informational booth at the Future Neenah Saturday Farmer's Market to get information about who we are and what we do out there. We also will attend the **28th Annual Children Come First Conference** being held at the Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort—Wisconsin Dells November 13th-14th again as an informational booth. WFCF has made an investment in display materials to make our presence more effective at these types of gatherings. We also have the **Chili Bowl Fundraiser** coming up to benefit WFCF and children and families, in the end of October. Please strongly consider attending and supporting these activities, as **YOU** make a huge difference to the success of each.

Legislatively things are moving forward on a number of fronts. The soon to be released bill that provides an equal placement initial presumption is

moving forward and should be officially released any day now. As a follow up to or lobby effort last spring where we met with 43 Assembly people, we again will be lobbying in Sept or early October to further this bill and contribute to its successful passing into law. Another bill is in the initial stages to decrease the **move away distance** from 150 miles down to 100 miles. This will greatly benefit our children, as having both their parents close in proximity is no doubt in the children's best interest. We are very hopeful this too will become law, and will work towards the successful passing of this through our legislature. Lastly as a group we have been working on adding a co-parenting training classes mandate to any situation where parents separate. We strongly believe that educating BOTH parents on the added responsibilities of co-parenting for both parents to share in parenting and information is paramount to our children's best interest. This might be simply an action to change one word in the law, from *may* **to must** as far as attending co-parenting

Legislatively things are moving forward on a number of fronts!

classes. An assembly person is currently working on making this happen. While that action will not solve all co-parenting problems parents' experience, it certainly can/will decrease the number significantly.

As of August 31st, we have answered and assisted **307** people in 2017 through our email helpline and telephone assist line. We helped 346 people in all of 2016, so as you can see we likely will far surpass that in 2017. We have successfully added a **9th Fathers Night Out** monthly meeting in WI (*Fond du Lac*) and a **10th will be added in Sept 17 in NE WI**. WFCF now provides **120 in**

person meetings each year throughout WI helping fathers (primarily) in maintaining relationships with their children. **A huge thank you goes out to the nine FNO leaders** (*one does double duty!*) for their time and significant effort to make parents and children's lives better.

WFCF continues to increase our Facebook presence (*we are now at 915 likes*) and we continue to increase our memberships, adding to the strength of our voice. **PLEASE CONSIDER** stepping up to volunteer to assist on any of our ongoing projects. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do. To volunteer please send an email to wfcftreasurer@outlook.com. I look forward to working with you to further our common goal.

MH IMAGING
KNOW YOUR INNER HEALTH

Any single MRI \$550
(all inclusive)
for non-insured patients.

MH Imaging
Save up to 75% compared to hospitals

Same day appointments with same day results

Imaging reports by local, onsite, Triple Board Certified Radiologist, Malcolm Hatfield, MD, FACR

The world's most advanced open MRI technology.

Also offering CT, Ultrasound and X-Ray Services

MILWAUKEE | 414.281.1490 7818 | W. Layton Avenue
KENOSHA | 262.842.1400 | 1020 35th Street, Suite 120
RACINE | 262.321.7970 | 6800 Washington Avenue, Suite B

www.mhimaging.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FNO'S AROUND THE STATE

As a new feature of the Today's Dads Newsletter we will be featuring updates from our various Father's Night Out Sites. These are first hand contributions from our volunteer FNO Managers who coordinate and host these events each month.

"FNO hosted by a step-mom and mom who believes Kids NEED BOTH Parents"

The first two events to be featured are our Madison FNO, the flagship of FNO events having been the first Father's Night Out Location for WFCF starting in the Spring of 2000 .

The Madison FNO has been hosted for roughly the last 15 years by Tom Pfeiffer and Bob Moore.

"The summertime has seen lower attendance than usual at our Madison Fathers Night Out meetings, until the 8/21 meeting which again returned to double digit attendance. We are fortunate to get a mix of older WFCF members, including current and prior board members, along with dads who have had success in the courts who come to

offer valuable insights to the several new comers who show up each month and receive lots of advice to mull over as they develop a strategy for dealing with the courts, the ex, and their children in troubled times. We also appreciate the input we very often receive from

supportive wives, girlfriends, mothers, and sisters who lend a perspective that is always appreciated. By paying it forward, it is our hope that all who attend will be better off for having taken the time to give advice and to listen and learn for the sake of the children.

Tom Pfeiffer and Bob Moore - Madison FNO coordinators"

Our second featured site is our La-Crosse event. This event is the first FNO hosted by a step-mom and mom who believes "Kids NEED BOTH Parents" and started in late 2016. We are grateful to all of our FNO Managers for their commitment and want to recognize Mary's ambition and willingness to bring an FNO event to LaCrosse.

Our La Crosse Father's Night Out attendance has doubled! We greatly appreciate the involvement that our attendees have had and spreading the word to others to also attend! Lately, we have discussed the pros and cons of the La Crosse County Custody Assessment Team (CAT) as well as local outings and events to take our children to to make the most of our time with

(Continued on page 4)

Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families

Do It Yourself Pro Se Help

Dads Helpline

Legal Resources

Fathers Night Out

WISCONSINFATHERS.ORG | Facebook.com/WisconsinFathersForChildrenAndFamilies

CHILI BOWL FUNDRAISER

(Continued from page 1)

Fond du Lac because we want to see everyone there and **an astonishing 70% of Wisconsin's population** can reach Fond du Lac in **1 hour or less!** This amounts to approximately 4 million people. Put into prospective we should easily be able to fill 90 lanes and get at least 12 cooks to bring their favorite chili recipe and hopefully somewhere close to 200 peo-

ple who want to taste all the various recipes.

"an astonishing 70% of Wisconsin's population can reach Fond du Lac in 1 hour or less!"

Preparations are in full swing and the

biggest focuses for the next month are advertising and soliciting event sponsorships and/or donations for the raffles and silent auction, and find Judges for the Chili Cook-Off.

Please E-Mail Kevin Monahan at initiatives@wisconsinfathers.org For More Information Today!

Join Today ~ \$30 Lifetime Membership

Continued from page 3)

them. We have had many questions regarding moving forward with our attendees and their situations and together we have been able to provide suggestions to take the next steps in positive relationships with their children and family.

CHILD SUPPORT FEDERAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES ~ MYTHS VS. REALITY

Recently we had a post on our Facebook page that had a YouTube video where a guy implies and actually says as a fact, the courts are influenced by the federal incentive program that is a part of the child support program. **That is absolutely not true.** That is a very common complaint by many people.

We do NOT want to perpetuate a myth that is UNTRUE.

The WI Child Support agency has **no input/influence whatsoever into placement orders.** That comes from the Judge or the Court Commissioner. The person in this video states that the courts have a large financial incentive to give out unequal placement orders. That is ABSOLUTELY not true. The courts in NO WAY are connected to the incentive program that the child support agency takes part in.

Federal Child Support Incentive Program

In 1998 this ACT was created to accomplish three very important goals.

- 1.) To get states to work together enforcing support orders on parents that move to different states.
- 2.) The federal government provides financial incentives to Child Support Agencies based on the ratio of the ordered support amount / amount of support dollars collected from PARENTS to support THEIR CHILDREN (so the state or federal govt. doesn't have to support these children)
- 3.) Increase the number of IV-D cases that have support orders. IV-D is cases

"The WI Child Support agency has no input/influence whatsoever into placement orders"

where the custodial parent is receiving some sort of assistance from the Office of Child Support Enforcement. This may include locating the non-custodial parent, establishing paternity, or establishing and enforcing a child support order. IV-D cases are initiated by IV-A Cases: (Cases where the custodial parent is receiving public assistance from the state. In order

to defray the costs of supporting the family, the state will automatically refer IV-A cases to the Office of Child Support Enforcement in order to attempt to collect child support directly from the non-custodial parent)

Parents that were not custodial at times moving out of state to get out from under their child support obligations. When that happens all too frequently the custodial parent can't carry the full financial load of their children and they are forced to go on state and federal aid. State and Federal aid is another phrase for **"the tax payers are paying for these children."** This program mandated to all states to work together and facilitate all states helping each other in holding parents to their financial obligations for THIER children. I AM a tax payer and so are all of you, I don't want to carry the financial responsibility for other people's children; I want THE PARENTS to carry that financial burden.

The Federal Program does incentivize the child support agency with MONEY, and that money is based on the total amount of support ordered/collected. That is a truth. Again

(Continued on page 6)



2017 Great Wisconsin Cheesefest WFCF Group with Green Bay Packer Hall of Famer, Super Bowl XXXI Champion Kicker Chris Jacke

Pictured Left to Right: Rick Frazer, Chuck George, Chris Jacke, Alan Frey, John Rindfleisch, Kevin Monahan

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

(Continued from page 1)

Company to Taquera La Poblantia. If you are in the NW WI/Eau Claire area please consider attending the FNO and support Jeff in this transition.

Let's talk a drive southeast for a little more than 200 miles to Janesville where we have another change. FNO Manager Thomas Dapper has stepped aside, we thank Thomas for his willingness to step up and start the event in

Janesville and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors., and hope when his schedule allows he will attend the Janesville event and continue to contribute to WFCF.

As of the time of this publication we have not been able to find a volunteer to take over this event. In an effort to minimize disruption to our members and supporters in the Janesville/Beloit area this event will be continued with a rotation of hosts including President Tony Bickel, and Board Members Rick Frazer and Kevin Monahan until a local

permanent Site Manager can be found.

Due to the travel time required by these "substitute" FNO Managers the event will now start at 6:00 p.m. and will go until 7:30-8:00 p.m. It will also be moved from the first Monday of the month to the second Thursday of the month. Additionally the event will now be hosted at Fuddrucker's instead of World Buffet. Please spread the word of these changes!

NEW STUDY FURTHER STRENGTHENS CASE FOR SHARED PARENTING AFTER DIVORCE

By Shawn Garrison
Online Editor
Cordell Practice Management Group

Yet another study has been published showing the benefits shared parenting offers families. This one indicates that it's not only fathers and children who are better off with shared parenting arrangements after divorce, but mothers as well.

A common concern regarding shared parenting is that splitting overnights between each parent could potentially harm an infant or toddler's relationship with his or her mother. However, research from Arizona State University suggests that children, regardless of their age, benefit from having parenting time with both parents, including sleepovers.

The study is titled "Should Infants and Toddlers Have Frequent Overnight Parenting Time With Fathers? The Policy Debate and New Data," and was published in the American Psychological Association journal *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*.

The study's lead author William Fabricius [said in a release](#) that the study showed the entire family was better off when fathers were granted overnights while their child was a toddler or in-

fant. "Not only did overnight parenting time with fathers during infancy and toddlerhood cause no harm to the mother-child relationship, it actually appeared to benefit children's relationships with both their mothers and their fathers," said Fabricius, who is an associate professor of psychology at ASU and has contributed to some of the most influential [studies regarding shared parent-](#)



[ing](#). "Children who had overnights with their fathers when they were infants or toddlers had higher-quality relationships with their fathers as well as with their mothers when they were 18 to 20 years old than children who had no overnights."

The study indicated it's crucial for children to have parenting time with mom and dad while they are infants and tod-

dlers because the amount of parenting time small children had with their fathers later in childhood failed to make up for a lack of overnight in the first few years of their lives.

Every increase in the number of overnights fathers were granted each week during infancy and toddlerhood led to a corresponding increase in the strength and closeness of their relationships with their grown children. The older children with the best relationships with *both* of their parents were the ones who split overnights with mom and dad in their infant and toddler years.

Another significant finding was that the findings remained the same regardless of whether the courts ordered overnight parenting time or if the parents agreed to equivalent overnights. The findings were also not affected by the amount of parental conflict in the first five years of the parents' divorce.

It appears that overnight stays early on help dads build intimacy early on in their child's life.

"Having to care for their infants and toddlers for the whole cycle of evening, bedtime, nighttime and morning helps dads learn how to parent their children from the beginning," Fabricius said. "It

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 4)

the child support agency has NO INFLUENCE at all on placement orders. The proof of that is that no one loses their placement based on their child support arrears. *If you are \$20,000 behind in your support order your placement can NOT be changed based on that, support and placement are separate issues.* Yes the child support agency is financially incentivized to collect as much **ordered** support as they can, that is absolutely true. The effect of this Federal Incentive Program has been that the State of WI has also become very aggressive at chasing people that are in the arrears, and taking away things from those people like passports and drivers licenses to get them to PAY the money they owe. The state of WI can also put HUGE garnishments on people up to 55% of their take home pay, to recover the arrears support. Please consider that when one parent doesn't pay their support obli-

gation for their children, the likelihood of the state and federal welfare system having to help cover the costs of raising those children increases dramatically. Welfare payments come from taxpayers, you and I. Even in situations where when one parent doesn't carry their financial support obligation the other parent does and isn't on welfare, is **that in any way fair to the other responsible parent?**

A second federal incentive program was started by the DHS to incentivize the states to recover the birthing expenses as well from parents, INSTEAD OF THE STATE paying it. Again when the state has to pay those birthing expenses, that means you and I pay those expenses.

I can certainly understand that people could feel there is an incentive.....to have more support ordered overall. **There is an incentive** to have more support orders in cases where the custodial parent is on public assistance.

(Continued from page 5)

helps dads and babies learn about each other, and provides a foundation for their future relationship. Other studies have shown that programs that encourage married dads to take more responsibility for infant care help those dads learn better parenting skills, and we think that the same kind of thing happens when divorced dads have overnight parenting time."

This study is just the latest to be added to a robust collection of research show-

"Twice as likely to drop out of high school"

ing that equal parenting is by far the best post-divorce arrangement for children. Children who have access to only one parent face a number of potential negative outcomes. They are:

- More likely to abuse drugs or alcohol
- Twice as likely to drop out of high school
- Four times as likely to develop emotional or behavioral problems
- Seven times as likely to become a teen parent

WFCF is absolutely for both parents being a part of their children's lives, as well as both parents carrying the financial responsibilities associated with their children.

- More likely to face abuse and neglect
- Although progress has been incremental, and shared parenting opponents still exist, the shared parenting movement is continuing to pick up momentum. Significant victories were gained in 2016 and 2015, and 25 states have introduced shared parenting legislation in 2017 and more are expected to follow suit.

The research doesn't lie. It's now just a matter of the law catching up to the data.

"PAY IT FORWARD"...VOLUNTEER WITH WFCF TODAY

Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families (WFCF) has come along way in its 29 years of existence. Absolutely none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the undying dedication and countless hours of effort our volunteers put in each year. We are a 100% volunteer organization and without

continued volunteerism we cannot grow. We have a positive approach to our mission and initiatives and want to continue to grow. WFCF is always looking for volunteers in various areas. Volunteering might not even require you to leave your home, some of it can be done at anytime of the day or night!

Please as you finish reading this newsletter ask yourself this question. Do I have a skill set or experience that can help WFCF?

Well, just for example if you have experience with grant writing, or fundrais-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

ing we can use your help!

You may recall almost a year ago we conducted our first ever survey. This survey was sent to over 2,000 unique representatives of the State of Wisconsin's 446 Public School Districts which combine for 2,215 individual schools. We received a total of 290 responses and we received 1

or more responses from 44% of the Districts in our State. This survey was the starting point in what we believe will be a multiple survey series involving our children's schools to increase awareness and education on the importance of involving both parents in a child's education. We now need volunteers ideally with an Educa-

tor/Educational Background whether it be in the classroom, administration, or even paraprofessional support role that is familiar with the innerworkings of schools to help us take the next step to improve life in Wisconsin for children who live in divided homes. Please consider stepping up today we appreciate any help we can get whether it is a couple of hours a year or much more. Thanks!

Join Today ~ \$30 Lifetime Membership

WFCF Lifetime Membership Application

Applicant Demographics

Name					
Date of Birth		Gender <small>(This data may be used in reporting membership population)</small>		Male Female Prefer Not to Disclose	
Physical Street Address					
City	State		Zip		
Mailing Address <small>(If Different than Physical Address)</small>					
City	State		Zip		
County of Current Residence					
Relationship to Child(ren) Affected					
Phone					
Personal E-Mail Address					
Check Here to be Contacted about Volunteer Opportunities with WFCF					

Order

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Extended Cost
1	WFCF Lifetime Membership ★ Includes E-Mail Subscription to "Todays Dad's Newsletter"	\$30.00	
	3 x 11 ½ in. Removable Vinyl WFCF "Kids NEED BOTH Parents" Bumper Sticker	\$3.00	
	1 ¼ in. WFCF Logo Lapel Pin	\$5.00	
1	One Time Donation to WFCF 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Organization		
\$ Membership Fees and Donations are IRS Tax Deductible \$		Total	

Please detach or copy this page and send with check or money order to:

WFCF
PO Box 1742
Madison WI 53701



WISCONSIN FATHERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PO Box 1742
Madison WI 53701

<http://www.wisconsinfathers.org>



Scan QR Code to Purchase Your Chili Bowl Tickets Today!



MONTHLY FATHER'S NIGHT OUT MEETINGS

WFCF IS NOW OFFERING **120 MEETINGS** IN PERSON MEETINGS ACROSS THE STATE PER YEAR

Milwaukee:

Second Tuesday of the month
7:15 PM at:
Bar Louie
5750 Bayshore Dr., Glendale, WI

Madison:

Third Monday of the month
6:15 PM at:
World Buffet at South Town Mall
2451 W Broadway, Monona, WI

Fox Valley:

Third Tuesday of the month
6:30 PM at:
5th Quarter
2101 American Dr, Little Chute, WI

Central WI:

Second Monday of the month
7:30 PM at:
Korner Kitchen
4890 Hwy H, Edgar, WI

NW WI (Eau Claire):

Third Thursday of each month
6:30 PM at:
Taquera La Poblantia
2436 London Rd, Eau Claire, WI



★★ OUR NEWEST LOCATION ★★

Green Bay/NE WI:

First Wednesday of the month
6:30 PM at:
Townline Pub
2544 Lineville Rd, Green Bay, WI

La Crosse:

Second Thursday of the month
6:30 PM at:
Sheninigans
2100 Dawson Ave, La Crosse, WI

Janesville:

Second Thursday of the month
6 PM at:
Fuddruckers
3136 E US Hwy 14, Janesville, WI

Racine:

Third Friday of the month
7:30 PM at:
Asian Buffet
3701 Durand Ave, Racine, WI

Fond du Lac:

Second Monday of the month
6:30 PM at:
Schmitty's Oar House Bar and Grill
N7044 Winnebago Dr, Fond du Lac, WI