

Men's Issues

- Parenting/Dad's Issues
- Life Skills
- Support Enforcement Assistance
- Substance Abuse Referrals
- Job Readiness
- Employment Referrals
- Rites of Passage
- Re-entry Services
- Mediation Referrals
- GED Referrals

Health Services

- Free Physicals
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Diabetes Screening
- Health Education Seminars
- Free Oral HIV Testing
- Mental Health Counseling
- Smoking Cessation/ Counseling

Youth Services

- Tutoring
- Rites of Passage
- African Drumming
- Mind and Manhood

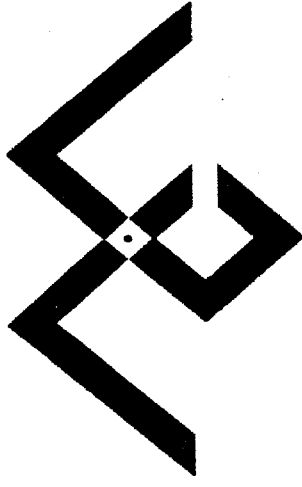
NA Meetings - Dee's Place

9:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m/7 days a week
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m./Monday - Friday

2003-04 At-A-Glance

- Provided child support assistance to 125 men
- Provided parenting skills sessions to 67 men
- Provided life skills training, at the Center and with the MD Re-Entry Program, to 187 men
- Provided pre-employment and job assistance to 302 men
- Placed 15 men into drug treatment at the Tuerk House
- End of School Block Party - 180 attendees
- Back to School Block Party, despite the rain, assisted 60 youth with school supplies
- Continued our weekly produce give-away to 140 individuals/families weekly. Some weeks we distributed food to as many as 250 individuals/families, averaging 7,000/year
- Distributed 55 Thanksgiving Baskets with aid from Johns Hopkins Medical Systems
- Started a Mental Health component, servicing 15 individuals
- Our clinic population, in conjunction with the Young Black Male Blood Pressure Study has more than tripled to 1,683 visits
- Our Rites of Passage Program had 104 visits
- Sponsored two Health Fairs during the year, servicing over 200 individuals
- Sponsored Annual Father's Day Breakfast with 200 attendees, made possible in part, with funding from the Weinberg Foundation
- Sponsored Kwanzaa Celebration
- Worked with Success By 6, servicing 16 with Dad's Duties, while being an unfunded partner
- Assisted participants of the YO Program, DaySpring Program, and several churches by providing food
- Drummed at churches, festivals, and several community events

The Men's Center, Inc.



MEN'S CENTER

"Helping You Help Yourself"

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Mission Statement

The Men's Center improves the quality of relationships between fathers and their children, thus enhancing the preservation of families. The Center is a coordinating place for East Baltimore and their families that increases the accessibility of services and community awareness. We address their specific needs through a holistic array of services that are designed to meet men where they are and move them towards self empowerment.

Background

In 1995, the Family League of Baltimore City and the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition initiated an extensive community needs assessment. This process revealed significant gaps in services to Historic East Baltimore families and children. The absence of comprehensive services for men/fathers was determined to be one of several major concerns. As a result, a plan was developed to establish a program that focused on addressing real life issues confronting urban men and their families. Subsequently, **The Men's Center** was created to respond to this community's vision.

The overriding goal of **The Men's Center** is to improve the quality of children's lives by developing and enhancing the capacity of male

parents and/or caretakers. This is manifested by providing interventions services for young males who are at risk of developing poor skills in those areas that will later affect their parenting abilities. The Center strives to accomplish this by implementing strategies that address several additional goals: establish greater participation of fathers in the lives of their children; develop a strong male support network which will enable men to provide support to their children and families; improve the growth and development of the participants' children, in their relationships to their peers, their home life, and their school performance; network to provide employment and completion of education for participating males; and develop a stronger individual sense of self-esteem leading to a more stable community.

Parenting and Life Skills

In an effort to restore male parenting to its traditional significance in the lives of children, and in the creation of stable families of committed men and women, the Men's Center provides a series of community forums with a presentation of the Four P's of Fatherhood: Potency, Procreativity, Provider and Protector. These functions allow a man to move from basic manhood into the more exalted conditions/status of fatherhood. These forums provide suggestions for how a community and/or extended family can assist in the process

of enabling a man to fulfill the requirements of the Four P's over time.

The Men's Center also sponsors Parenting and Life Skills Group which meets weekly. This group provides support for men in their roles with their families, their roles as providers and protectors, in their careers and in resolving life problems. The group provides access to information regarding economic and educational opportunities, a place where constructive ideas can be explored and exchanged, and the opportunity for support. Learning opportunities for fathers include father-child interaction, instruction in managing legal, family court, and child visitation/custody issues. "Dad's Issues" supports fathers in developing and maintaining health family relationships. It includes a child abuse/child neglect prevention component.

Rites of Passage

This program was established to help youth be more respectful of elders, women, their communities and themselves. The Rites of Passage program draws its strength from an Afro-centric value system that brings young men through a series of prescribed developmental stages towards manhood. It is offered to males ranging in age from eight to eighteen as an eight week long program. To date 72 youth have completed this program. Discussion topics include: mind and manhood, drug abuse prevention, abstinence, staying in school, not being arrested, etc. Young men are encouraged to focus on realistic life goals that will build strong individuals, functioning families and a united and caring community.