

Executive Report: Prince George's County Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys

Presented to: Prince George's County Council

Introduction: The Prince George's County Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys is committed to improving the well-being and quality of life for fathers, men, boys, and their families. Through our extensive outreach programs, partnerships, and initiatives, we address critical issues such as food insecurity, education, health, reentry support, domestic violence awareness, and community engagement. This report details our achievements, ongoing efforts, and future plans to continue making a positive impact in Prince Georges County.

Key Initiatives and Community Engagement

1. Community Support and Outreach

- **Food Drives:**
 - Hosted multiple county-wide food distribution events to combat food insecurity among families, particularly in underserved communities.
 - Partnered with local organizations and food banks to provide fresh produce and non-perishable items.
 - Coordinated with faith-based institutions to distribute meals during holiday seasons and emergency situations.
- **Toy and Clothing Drives:**
 - Conducted annual toy drives during the holiday season, distributing gifts to over 500 children in need.
 - Clothing drives for underserved families, including donations of professional attire to assist individuals seeking employment opportunities.
- **Workshops for Mothers Who Have Lost Children to Gun Violence:**
 - Created safe spaces for grieving mothers to receive counseling, support, and resources to navigate their healing journey.
 - Partnered with mental health professionals and local advocacy groups to provide coping strategies and legal assistance.
- **Returning Citizens Resources:**

- Developed programs to assist formerly incarcerated individuals with job readiness training, housing support, and reintegration into society.
- Partnered with local employers to provide fair hiring opportunities for returning citizens.
- Conducted workshops on financial literacy, parenting, and mental health support for returning citizens.
- **Collaboration with the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs:** Strengthened reentry programs by aligning resources and services with county support agencies.

2. Educational and Youth Support

- **Reading Programs at Libraries:**

- Launched literacy initiatives in partnership with local libraries to encourage young boys to develop strong reading habits.
- Engaged community leaders and fathers as reading mentors.

- **Safe Passage Program:**

- Worked with Prince George's County Schools to ensure the safety of students traveling to and from school by stationing community volunteers along key routes.
- Implemented intervention programs to prevent violence and bullying.
- Conducted training for parents and educators on recognizing and addressing potential safety threats.
- **Partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS):** Expanded collaboration to create mentorship programs, support student well-being, and provide additional educational workshops.

3. Health and Wellness Initiatives

- **Men's Health Awareness Campaign:**

- Launched educational campaigns emphasizing the importance of regular health checkups and early detection of chronic illnesses.
- Partnered with local health providers to offer free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol levels.

- Conducted mental health awareness sessions to address stress, anxiety, and depression among men and boys.
- **COVID-19 Mask Distribution:**
 - Provided over 10,000 masks to families and individuals during the pandemic.
 - Educated communities on the importance of vaccinations and public health measures.
- **Prostate Cancer Awareness:**
 - Hosted forums and health fairs promoting early detection of prostate cancer.
 - Distributed educational materials and facilitated discussions with medical professionals.
- **Annual Bike Ride for Men's Health (Juneteenth - City of Bowie):**
 - Promoted physical fitness and men's health awareness through a community-wide cycling event.
 - Engaged fathers and sons in health-centered activities.
- **Mother's Day Brunch at Shepherd's Cove:**
 - Celebrated and supported single mothers through community gatherings, workshops, and resource sharing.

4. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Awareness

- **Workshops on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking:**
 - Partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct workshops for families, young boys, and adolescents on recognizing and preventing domestic violence and human trafficking.
 - Provided resources and referral services for victims of abuse and trafficking.
 - Trained community leaders to become advocates for victims.
- **Presentation at Bowie State University:**
 - Conducted an educational session for over 200 women on the impact of domestic and partner violence.
 - Discussed legal protections, support systems, and ways to foster safer relationships.

5. Fatherhood and Male Empowerment

- **Elevating Dads - Fatherhood Awards:**
 - Recognized outstanding fathers for their dedication to family and community leadership.
 - Created mentorship opportunities where awardees guide younger fathers.
 - **Clothing Donations at Men's Shelter and Run and Shoot (District Heights):**
 - Provided essential clothing, including winter gear and professional attire, to men in need.
 - Partnered with shelters to facilitate skill-building workshops and job training programs.
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Future Goals and Strategic Initiatives

1. **Expand Safe Passage Program:** Increase volunteer participation and establish more safe zones around schools.
 2. **Enhance Health Initiatives:** Introduce mobile health clinics to provide screenings and services directly in communities.
 3. **Increase Support for Returning Citizens:** Develop additional vocational training and financial literacy programs, in collaboration with the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs.
 4. **Strengthen Domestic Violence Prevention Programs:** Establish year-round advocacy campaigns and expand partnerships with law enforcement agencies.
 5. **Grow Fatherhood Engagement:** Launch a mentorship network connecting experienced fathers with young men seeking guidance.
 6. **Deepen Collaboration with PGCPS:** Develop mentorship and educational support initiatives that promote leadership, literacy, and well-being among students.
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Community Testimonials

- **Mother's Day Brunch Recipient:** "As a single mother, it is rare to find spaces where I feel truly appreciated and supported. The Mother's Day Brunch was not only a time

of celebration but also a reminder that I am not alone. The resources and connections I made will help me and my children in so many ways.”

- **Relationship Building Workshop Attendee:** “The workshop helped me see relationships in a new light. I learned how to set boundaries, communicate better, and recognize healthy partnerships. This was a life-changing experience that has given me the confidence to build stronger relationships in all aspects of my life.”
- **Returning Citizen Beneficiary:** “After being released, I struggled to find work and support my family. The Commission’s programs helped me gain job training, find employment, and regain my confidence. Now, I can provide for my children and give them the future they deserve.”
- **Father and Family Resource Recipient:** “The guidance we received from the Commission led us to resources we didn’t even know existed. As a father, I feel more empowered to take care of my family. We need more programs like this to ensure men have access to the support they need.”
- **Parent on Mentoring Needs:** “Young boys need to see engaged fathers and positive male role models. This Commission’s mentoring programs are a step in the right direction, but we need more initiatives that bring fathers into schools and communities to demonstrate what healthy relationships and responsible fatherhood look like.”

Request for Additional Resources and Support

To sustain and expand the critical work of the Prince George’s County Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys, we request additional funding, resources, and collaboration from the County Council. Increased financial support will enable us to:

- Expand our outreach efforts to reach more fathers, men, and boys in need.
- Enhance existing programs and develop new initiatives focused on fatherhood engagement, mentorship, and workforce development.
- Increase visibility through public awareness campaigns and media outreach.
- Strengthen partnerships with community organizations, PGCPS, and the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs to create a more inclusive and supportive network.

We urge the County Council to consider our request for additional funding and collaboration to ensure the continued success of programs that directly impact families in Prince George’s County.

Conclusion

The Prince George's County Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys remains steadfast in its mission to support and uplift fathers, men, and boys within our community. Through strategic partnerships, impactful programs, and dedicated outreach, we continue to foster a stronger, safer, and more prosperous county for all.

We appreciate the continued support from Prince George's County Council and look forward to further collaboration to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we can build a brighter future for the families and individuals we serve.

Submitted on behalf of: Prince George's County Commission on fathers Men and Boy's

- **Chair:** Robert Johnson
- **Vice Chair:** Bruce Edwards
- **Commissioners:** Anthony Tilghman, Anthony McCallister, Peter Miller, Darrin Sharp, Calvin Osbourne