



FATHER PROJECT – SF1409

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota and Greater Minnesota Partners

Kids need dads!

Too many Minnesota children grow up without a positive, involved father. Kids raised in households without a father are five times more likely to experience poverty than children in two-parent households.

There is a powerful solution.

Since 1999, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota's FATHER Project has helped dads become an essential part of raising healthy, happy and secure children. Increased economic stability, stronger parenting skills and successfully meeting child support and other legal obligations help their children thrive.

The Power of Partnerships and Work

The Father Project provides a comprehensive model to address the whole person. Low-income dads are often impacted by many systems and our partnerships meet multiple needs:

- **MFIP:** men and their children on assistance
- **Reentry:** men recently released from incarceration
- **Child welfare:** offering another parental option for kids in crisis
- **Dads** working and paying child support

Financial stability is linked to family stability. Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota has nearly 20 services and programs FATHER Project can access to help connect dads to jobs and build brighter futures.

FATHER Project outcomes

\$3.41

actual ROI (increased wages and hours, job retention and child support payments)

75 job placements

\$19.42 average wage at placement

282 dads served in 2022

75% of dads

completed an intensive, 12-week parenting class

Increased parenting engagement, stronger parenting skills and healthier co-parenting with partner/mother

Transformation of participants

into mentors & community leaders, including improved security and outcomes for children

GOODWILL®

EASTER SEALS

Roger builds a brighter future with FATHER Project

Roger is a single, 25-year-old dad who lives in Rochester with his two children. He connected with FATHER Project in April 2022 in need of employment, housing support, transportation and a connection with other fathers.

Roger's vision impairment made it difficult to perform his job duties, including documentation, a key part of his work. Due to his disability, his hours were reduced to part-time and affected his financial stability. Roger also struggled to get reliable transportation to work. It was time for a change.

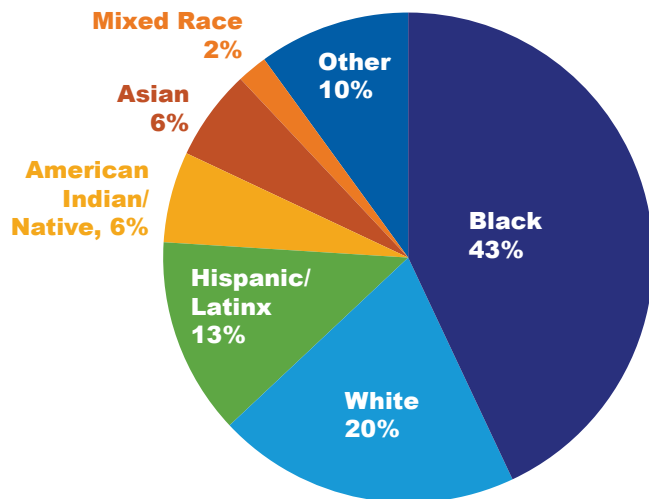
Enter FATHER Project, whose staff worked to find better employment options to meet Roger's needs. Leveraging FATHER Project's relationship with a school within walking distance of his home, Roger was hired as a para-professional and his new employer accommodates his vision needs.

Roger's new job is full-time with benefits, including health, PTO and retirement. He is also able to meet the needs of his children before and after school, as they are now on the same schedule. FATHER Project helps remove common barriers to employment like lack of transportation, childcare, healthcare and fines/fees to help people gain independence.

Who we serve

The FATHER Project helps assist fathers in overcoming barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. We serve dads who face barriers to supporting their children:

- Low income
- Criminal background
- Housing instability
- Lacking GED or high school
- Child protection



FATHER Project locations



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