



Fresno Fatherhood Collaborative

Inside this issue:

1st Annual Parenting Education Conference	1
POPS Spotlight	1
Shawn's Message	2
Daddy 'N' Me Day	3
Meet Maria Else	3
OFA Grantee Meeting	4
Calendar of Events	4

Parenting Education Conference: A Day Dedicated to Parents

By: Phoua Vang, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future." This expression held true on Saturday, June 22, 2013, when parents and their children participated in the Parenting Education Conference held at Fresno City College. The conference was a collaborative effort among Children's Services Network,

First 5 Fresno County, Fresno City College, Fresno EOC POPS Program, and the California Endowment. About 100 parents participated in workshops that provided them with the tools to prepare their children for the future through effective parenting methods. As parents checked in, they received a bag filled with a water bottle, baby wipes, and a key chain. The conference began with the welcome

address by Assembly Member Henry T. Perea, who recently welcomed his second child. He shared his experiences as a father.

Afterward, the parents separated into the workshop of their choice during the first session. The conference consisted of three workshop sessions with nine different workshops. The workshops were facilitated by professionals from local community-based

Spotlight: Growing Together

By: Ollie Martin, LCC POPS Participant

IN THE POPS SPOTLIGHT



POPS Participant Ollie Martin pictured with his son Joshua.

My goals in life are pretty simple. My goal is to be a better father for my son. Growing up, I didn't have that. I want to take and pick up my son from school. I want to go to school activities with him. Be involved with all the sports he plays. I want to do things with him that my dad never did with me like: fishing, camping, vacations, even something as simple as throwing a ball. Another is

teaching my son everything to make him a better man. I want to teach him responsibility, how to be polite, and to always finish what you start, no matter how hard it is.

I feel that I need to take what I learn and apply that to my everyday activities. Also bring what I've learned to my relationships and everybody I may come in contact with. Growth comes with learning. The more I

learn the better I can help raise my son. I can help him expand his knowledge and grow as a person. I can teach him to be the type of person that will contribute to society and help with the of not only himself, but his community as well. In other words, its important for me to continue my education to better the quality of life for my son and family.

A Message From Shawn

POPS Collaborative Partners

- Shawn Riggins, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps Director

- County of Fresno Veterans Services
- San Joaquin Valley Veterans/
WestCare
- Department of Child Support Services
- **Fresno EOC**
 - Employment & Training
 - Local Conservation Corps
 - Sanctuary & Youth Services
- Fresno Housing Authority
- Fresno Street Saints
- First 5 Fresno County
- Marjaree Mason Center

The recent Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman decision touched a nerve with many parents, in particular, those of color. For disclosure sake, I support the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms and I support the right of responsible US citizens to have access to firearms.

On the other hand, growing up as a young boy of color, I could have been Trayvon Martin. Today, as a man of color who has never been arrested, I still hear car doors lock when I cross the street dressed for business. I still experience people clutching their purses when I get on the elevator. I see the uneasiness of neighbors in my neighborhood when I go for a walk, even though my wife and I were the second couple on our street to build a house there.

As a father of a young woman of color, I have many concerns of what she will experience growing up. The important thing is I plan to be there to help her by being a supportive listener, sharing lessons I've learned along the way and by being the best parent I can be.



Parenting Education Conference continued from page 1

organizations in Fresno. Tanni Mann, from Marjaree Mason Center, educated parents about the signs of domestic violence and the effects of domestic violence on parenting. Parents learned about the importance of reading to their children and received a free book in the workshop held by Melissa Munoz from Reach Out & Read. Dr. Cheek, Love Notes class facilitator shared with parents effective communication and conflict management strategies along with signs of unhealthy relationships.

Another workshop consisted of a panel of five fathers from different cultures to discuss the impact of culture on being a father.

Among the many highlights of the day included staff from the Marinello School of Beauty who shared tips and tricks on how to style and cut children's hair and provided free haircuts. Parents also had the options of visiting the community resource fair available each workshop session. Several workshops were also offered in Spanish.

Each workshop consisted of about 10 parents and their children. As you walked through each class, you can see the parents' eagerness and willingness to learn the skills to be the best parent they can to their children.

The conference concluded with the closing address by Dr. Janine Nkosi, professor from the Sociology Department at Fresno State. She is a mother to two teenage children. Prizes were given out to parents during a raffle drawing. Parents left the conference with valuable information about discipline, co-parenting, raising teens, and

stress-management.

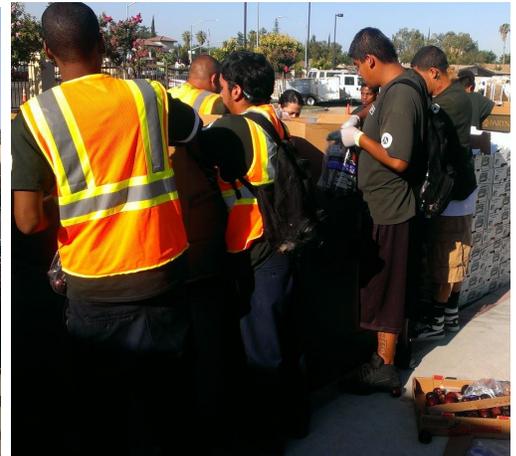
They also gained important skills that can be applied in their life to become effective parents and to help them prepare their children for a future of success.



Fresno EOC POPS “Daddy N Me Day” Event

By: Jon Hart, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

On Saturday, July 6, 2013, the POPS Fatherhood Program hosted “Daddy N Me Day” at the Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps. This was a fun filled, FREE family event for all, where 231 families and community members came together. There were interactive games for all ages, such as basketball, football toss, hula hooping, face painting, crafts, and projects for parents and children to make cool stuff together. There was even a clown who made balloon animals and put smiles on the children’s faces. This was also an opportunity to take home healthy produce from the Fresno EOC food distribution, sponsored by the Fresno EOC Community Services Department and Community Food Bank. The event also served as Father Serve Day where LCC corpsmembers provided services as Americorps members, helping with



POPS Corpsmembers and families at the 2nd Annual Daddy ‘N’ Me Day Event on July 6, 2013.

games and bagging the food for the event. Also during this time, those who came out had the opportunity to get information from other Fresno agencies such as California Health Collaborative, California Highway Patrol (CHP) “El Protector Program”, Centro La Familia, Health Services, Marinello School of Beauty, Aikido of Fresno, Fresno EOC WIC, and the Fresno EOC AFLP Program.

The fun filled Daddy N Me Day event, ended with a raffle, where community members had the opportunity to win a donated, raffle prize, from the agencies that participated in the event.

A report from the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse states, “When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education,

their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Even when fathers do not share a home with their children, their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact. There are countless ways to be involved in your child’s education at all ages”.

Meet Maria Else: POPS Case Manager at LCC



I am a native resident of Fresno, CA, and have been a part of the LCC team since May of 2012 first as a Campus Monitor/Relief Teacher, and currently as the POPS Case Manager. I hold a B.A. in Liberal Studies from CSU Fresno.

Prior to my employment with Fresno EOC, I served ten years as a Spanish bi-lingual Instructional Aide for Fresno Unified School District. My

passion for youth led me to take an opportunity to work for Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County as the Education Director; during my employment I was promoted as coordinator of the STOP (Students Targeted with Opportunities for Prevention) in collaboration with Juvenile Justice Center and Tehipite Middle School, served as Gang Intervention Coordinator for three years, and Unit Director four years.

The training I received

prepared me to take on the position as Intervention Specialist with California Youth Outreach. In addition, I had the honor of serving on the Mayor’s Gang Prevention and Intervention Initiative during its start-up phase. It is a pleasure to be a part of Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps, and I look forward to continued involvement with the community under the POPS program.

POPS Presents at National Healthy Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood Grantee Meeting



On Wednesday, June 26, 2013 the Fresno EOC POPS- Responsible Fatherhood Program was invited to present at the Annual Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Grantee meeting at a workshop titled “Employment: What is Working in the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs.” Sanctuary Director- Michelle Tutunjian, and POPS Program Manager—Alicia Austin-Townsend represented the POPS Program and presented information about the program’s subsidized and unsubsidized employment services and panel question and answer discussion during the workshop.

Parenting Education Conference



Top photo: Dr. Cheek presenting Love Notes Workshop
Bottom photo: Shawn Riggins Presenting recognition to Assemblyman Henry T. Perea during opening session.

Schedule of Events

- 24/7 Dad Classes at Fresno EOC NYC (Open Enrollment)- Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.
- CHOICES Anger Management Monday's at EOC NYC- from 3:30 to 5:30 PM (Open Enrollment).
- CHOICES Anger Management at WestCare (Closed Group)- Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Love Notes Healthy Relationship Classes at EOC NYC- Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 to 6:30 PM; Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.

August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Love Notes	2	3
4	5 CHOICES	6 Love Notes 24/7 Dad	7	8 Love Notes 24/7 Dad	9 Love Notes	10
11	12 CHOICES	13 Love Notes 24/7 Dad	14	15 Love Notes 24/7 Dad	16 Love Notes	17
18	19 CHOICES	20 24/7 Dad	21	22 42/7 Dad	23	24
25	26 CHOICES	27 24/7 Dad	28	29 24/7 Dad	30	31



<http://www.facebook.com/fresnopops>