



Fresno Fatherhood Collaborative

Inside this issue:

Father's Day	1
Spotlight	2
Shawn's Message	2
Let's Celebrate	2
Cole's Top 10	3
Announcements	4
Calendar of Events	4

POPS Daddy 'N' Me Day a Grand Slam!

By: Jon Hart, Education and Community Outreach Specialist

The Fresno EOC Proving Our Parenting Skills (POPS) program hit a grand slam on Sunday, July 15, 2014, along with the Fresno Grizzlies to celebrate Father's Day by hosting the Daddy 'N' Me Day event at Chukchansi Park. This was the third year for the annual event whose purpose was to provide the community with "A Fun Day Connecting Fantastic Fathers and Their Kids."

What many may not know is that the event started long before game day with Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corpsmembers who were enrolled in the POPS Program held fundraisers like taco sales and raffles to help raise funds to buy 200 tickets and fun zone passes for families to attend the game. Overall, the corpsmembers help raise over \$700 for free tickets for fathers to have the

opportunity to attend the game with their family to the baseball game along with tickets to the fun zone for kids.

The event day was another opportunity for service with 12 LCC Corpsmembers with their families and POPS Staff conducted two interactive booths and an information booth. During the game fathers, children, families and fans had the opportunity to play games, make Father's

Spotlight: Christian Becerril

By: Manny Brar, POPS Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services Case Manager

IN THE POPS SPOTLIGHT



Photo: POPS TLC Participant Christian Becerril.

Christian Becerril is a very unique father to be. On the outside, you see a polite young man not unlike any other person. It is the obstacles he has had to overcome that make him so special. We are all familiar with the phrase that "When life hands you lemons, you make lemonade." That is precisely what Christian has successfully done.

Christian was raised by his single mother and grew up with two brothers and four sisters. Having never met his biological father, Christian yearns to be

the father he never had. He is adamant of the fact that although he didn't have much as a child, he wants to ensure that his daughter does. He has learned to "see the glass as half full" and is resolute in keeping a positive attitude no matter the situation.

Christian is a 20 year old father in waiting. He currently resides with his girlfriend at TLC3 and they are expecting their first child, a daughter. Christian has completed POPS Love Notes healthy relationship training, and has

recently graduated from POPS 24/7 Dad class. He is currently attending Cesar Chavez Adult School in pursuit of obtaining his GED. Christian has shown himself to be kind, patient, responsible, and determined. These qualities are what are helping to create a better situation for his family and for himself. Christian enjoys Spanish music, drawing, singing, and cars. Christian also strives to one day become a chef. With this young mans' determination, there is little doubt he will get there.

A Message From Shawn

- Shawn Riggins, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps Director

POPS Collaborative Partners

- 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
- West Fresno Faith Based Organization



During the past 15 years, I have struggled with my weight and health issues related to weight gain. On several occasions before my father passed, I remember him telling me that earlier in his life, he faced similar issues and decided as a father, he needed to take care of himself to ensure he would be there for our family. This month, I completed a five year journey of self-reflection when I elected to have gastric by-pass surgery.

As a father and husband, I wanted to ensure I would be around to see my future grandchildren. I wanted Jade to see her father as she has not since she was a toddler. I will use this second chance as an opportunity to show her the importance of living a healthy lifestyle so she can pass it on to her children. And, I must admit, it feels good catching my wife Andrea sneaking looks at me when she thinks I'm not looking and smiling. As a husband and a father, it is my responsibility to ensure that I do everything in my power to be around for my family.

Dad, I finally listened and thank you for the advice.

PROPS TO THE POPS: Graduates of Fresno EOC School of Unlimited Learning

Author: Manny Brar, Sanctuary POPS Case Manager & POPS 24/7 Dad Facilitator



On June 12, 2014, Fresno EOC School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) held the Class of 2014 Commencement at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Sanctuary POPS participants: Ivan Moreno, Dwan Holland-Carter, Andrew Licon, and Bryan Vasquez were among the class of graduating high school seniors. These young fathers successfully completed all 24/7 Dad



sessions during the school year and excelled in academics and sports, and of course; being a special dad to their child and partner. We especially thank Dwan Holland-Carter for serving as a POPS Fatherhood Ambassador after his school hours and mentoring other young dads in his role. As a POPS Fatherhood Ambassador, Dwan completed 120 service hours assisting staff with 24/7 Dad sessions,

Photos: Pictured left to right: Ivan Moreno, Dwan Holland-Carter, Andrew Licon, and Bryan Vasquez

conducting community outreach, and helping to recruit new dads for the POPS program.

All four seniors have been accepted to attend Fresno City College in the fall semester of 2014. We are very proud of our participants and wish them well in their future endeavors, educational journey, and path to fatherhood.

POPS Salutes Salvation Army 24/7 Dads!

By: Torrie Gill, POPS Employment and Training Case Manager



On May 27, 2014 22 POPS participants from the Salvation Army completed 24/7 DAD. These participants have worked extremely hard to maintain responsible fatherhood while maintaining their sobriety as well. The participants wanted to discuss their journey of rehabilitation and fatherhood so I asked them a few questions. I know this sounds like a silly question, but what does sobriety really mean? "What sobriety means to me is that I

am alcohol and substitute free; physically, mentally and spiritually sober on a daily basis. Working, applying and practicing the 12 Steps in my own life, growing one day at a time in this program. When I practice this in my own life I am able to achieve emotional sobriety," stated one of the participants. These participants were very upfront and honest when discussing their views on fatherhood before 24/7 DAD and after. "I thought a father is a financial

provider, that's what my father was for me and that's what I am for my kids, after taking 24/7 DAD, I have learned that a father is supposed to be a father you have to be there throughout your child's life not just be a money maker. In 24/7 DAD I learned, that the bond you make with a baby sets the foundation for a lifetime. As the kids get older, they'll need you in different ways but they will always need you. These men have learned a lot about themselves throughout the 24/7 DAD curriculum and have come to realize just how much a child needs a father. Next step for these dads is to continue working on their sobriety and continuing to work on the relationships with their children. Taking it one step at a time is what they are all doing and in the long run it all pays off. Once again congratulations to these fathers!



POPS Daddy 'N' Me Day a Grand Slam!

(Continued from page 1)

By: Jon Hart, Education and Community Outreach Specialist

Day cards and ties for their father, and families could learn (continued on page 3)

more about the POPS program along with some free giveaways like books, dad bags, and the famed "Super Dad" t-shirts. Even Parker and his dad stopped by to say hello to the POPS program. What a great day to celebrate!



Cole's Top 10 Summer Heat Tips!

By: Cole Scroggins, Fresno EOC Sanctuary Youth Outreach Worker & POPS 24/7 Dad Facilitator

As the heat in the valley starts to creep up we should try to remember that most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Other conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions, poor air quality and dehydration.

To avoid the conditions and elements try one of the local cooling centers in Fresno and Clovis area. In addition, the City's FAX bus system will provide free transportation along normal routes to and from cooling center sites when the centers are open. To ride free, residents must indicate they are traveling to a cooling center. FAX buses also serve as a Mobile Safe Place.



1) Ted C. Wills Community Center, 770 N. San Pablo.



2) Frank H. Ball Neighborhood Center, 760 Mayor.



3) Mosqueda Community Center, 4670 E. Butler



4) Pinedale Community Center, 7170 N. San Pablo



5) Sierra Vista Mall -1050 Shaw Avenue, Clovis

6) Romain Learner Pool: 745 N First . Rec. Swim is FREE and open ONLY to children 5 to 12.

7) Mary Ella Brown Pool: 1350 E. Annadale (Elm & Annadale) Recreation Swimming open to the public

8) Airways Pool: 5440 E. Shields (Shields & Clovis) Recreation Swimming open to the public Monday through Friday

9) Todd Beamer Park - On Maple and Plymouth. Contains a "splash park."



10) Historic Dickey Park, Water Play Areas 50 N. Calaveras (Blackstone & Divisadero).



Schedule of Events

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

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 CHOICES	3 24/7 DAD CHOICES W	4	5 24/7 DAD Love Notes	6	7
8 Daddy 'N' Me Day!	9 CHOICES	10 24/7 DAD 24/7 Dad SA CHOICES W Love Notes	11	12 24/7 DAD Love Notes	13	14
15 Daddy 'N' Me Day!	16 CHOICES	17 24/7 DAD CHOICES W	18	19 24/7 DAD	20	21
22	23 CHOICES	24 24/7 DAD CHOICES W	25	26 24/7 DAD	27	28
29	30 CHOICES					



Find us on Like
Facebook

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