



# **Fatherhood**

# **Family**

# **Initiative**



*Home Team Sports Club*

## **A CLEAR AND URGENT COMMUNITY NEED**

A major challenge of our generation is the fractured and dysfunctional family unit. That this is a serious community and national social, moral and economic problem is clearly evident in the daily news and is testified to by an abundance of statistics. The steady dissolution of the family structure over recent decades is linked to births out of wedlock, poverty, and the absence of the father living in the household.

### **PURPOSE OF THE FATHERHOOD-FAMILY INITIATIVE**

The goal of this Initiative is to strengthen the family and thereby to improve the physical, social and mental well-being of the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska. It will help fathers bond with their offspring and help restore responsible fatherhood to the family, including the role of authority figure and family provider. For the purpose of this Initiative the term "father" is defined as a recognized responsible adult male figure or role model and includes the biologic father, adoptive father, or other adult caring male. This Initiative is sharply focused to foster a healthy bonding between the father figure and young males, i.e. the "Father-Son" relationship.

### **THE FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP**

An important key to establishing the "Father-Son" relationship is to promote time and activity sharing between the two. Sports and recreational activities provide an attractive incentive for father-son participation and by their nature they teach the importance of individual effort and responsibility, teamwork, dependability, honor, and their resultant rewards. These types of activities serve to stimulate initial interest in joining the program and will lead to opportunities for further education and participation in the program

### **THE HOME TEAM SPORTS CLUB**

The thrust of the Fatherhood-Family Initiative is to establish and/or strengthen the relationship and bonding of the male youth with their adult male role model initially using a basketball program as the basic matrix.

- Members of the Club have basketball court privileges.
- Experienced basketball players may be available to help with the program.
- Activities can be variously organized between members as desired.
- The Club will provide the necessary project director, staff, facilities and equipment.

## **THE MASONIC COMMUNITY CENTER FATHERHOOD-FAMILY INITIATIVE: A HOLISTIC APPROACH**

Because multiple factors are involved in the phenomenon of the fractured family, it is likely that only a holistic approach could begin to successfully address the problem. In addition to the Home Team Sports Club, the program envisions several interactive components which typically would be delivered via group involvement, individual contact, and pertinent referral. This means that the Initiative is geared to sharing and partnership throughout the Omaha community whenever possible. Critical areas that need to be served include employment, counseling, parenting skills and legal aid.