



# Center Stage

The Newsletter of the  
Center for Fathers and Families

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## Daddy's Here



In September, *Daddy's Here*, a fatherhood support group, began at the Center for Fathers and Families. This unique program encourages fathers to come together in a positive atmosphere to discuss parenting, relationships, custody issues, and more. Led by Terry Moore, an inspired local dad (and a 2005 Father of the Year) who fought a lengthy battle to maintain visitation rights with his young daughter – *Daddy's Here* has quickly become an incredibly popular and powerful support group for dads.

When asked about *Daddy's Here* – Terry smiled and said, “For me, this program has been a blessing just by the father bonding and the energy that fills the room. There is laughter, unity, friendship, great stories, openness, advice, trust, release, self-progress, security and strength in each meeting. These guys make themselves vulnerable regarding their weaknesses in order to get that push they need. It’s a beautiful thing and each father in the program truly loves his children. I’ve never been around a better group of guys.”

*Daddy's Here* meets on Thursday evenings at 7pm at the Center. There is no cost to participate. In addition to regular meetings, the men have also enjoyed family outings together thanks to the generosity of Maloof Sports & Entertainment and the Sacramento Zoo.

While the Fall sessions have ended, the program will resume in January 2006. If you have questions about *Daddy's Here*, contact Terry via email at [fromtheheart1@hotmail.com](mailto:fromtheheart1@hotmail.com).

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**The Center for Fathers and Families is bringing NFL legend Gale Sayers to town! Look inside for more details...**



“Strengthening Families and Building Communities”



THE CENTER FOR  
*Fathers and Families*

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# Don't Miss...

*The Center for Fathers and Families is proud to announce the dates for our annual June events:*

**Rick Jennings' Drive Fore Education/  
Chip in Fore Charity**

**Friday, June 2, 2006 ~ Teal Bend Golf Club**  
Morning & Afternoon Tournaments  
Registration begins at 6:00am & 12:00pm  
Hole sponsorships (including foursome) start at \$2500  
Field is limited to 100 players per tournament  
Reserve your foursome today!



*Gale Sayers*  
*Keynote Speaker*

**4th Annual  
Salute to Fatherhood Banquet**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2006**  
Radisson Hotel Sacramento  
Reception: 6pm-7pm Dinner: 7pm-9pm  
**Keynote Speaker - NFL Hall of Famer Gale Sayers**  
Join us as we honor the 2006 Fathers of the Year!  
(Nominations accepted until March -  
visit [www.fathersandfamilies.com](http://www.fathersandfamilies.com) for details)  
Table sponsorships begin at \$3,000  
Tickets are \$150 each, no sales at the door

To make a reservation, contact Noelle at 916.424.3237 x203

## Message From Rick

In this issue of Center Stage, I hope you will share in my enthusiasm regarding some of the exciting programs, services, and events that are taking place at the Center for Fathers and Families. You will discover our new "Daddy's Here" fatherhood support program. Also, we are pleased to report that the CORAL after-school program is making positive strides in closing the reading achievement gap for youth 1 – 2 years behind in their reading level.

Finally, I am excited to announce that NFL Legend Gale Sayers has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the Salute to Fatherhood Banquet. As a young kid growing up with dreams of becoming an NFL football player, I idolized the Chicago Bears running back. On Sundays after watching his games, I would go outside (sometimes in the snow) and try to match his graceful moves, speed and agility. In my imagination, I always scored at least one more touchdown than Gale.

I encourage you to reserve your seat to listen to the life of this remarkable humanitarian. We all know about his exciting NFL Hall of Fame career, his award winning movie *Brian's Song* and his wonderful book *I am Third*. Now for the first time in Sacramento history, we will hear about his business, family, and personal commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.



*Rick Jennings, CEO*  
*Center for Fathers and Families*

Call me to let me know how much you enjoyed this issue!

# Program Spotlight

## CFF Programs Close Literacy Gaps

The Sacramento CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) initiative has a new location this year at John Still Elementary in south Sacramento. Serving close to 120 students everyday after school, John Still is now the largest of the six CORAL sites.

CORAL is directed by the Center for Fathers and Families and the Sacramento Children's Home. It identifies students who are behind their proper reading level and aggressively works with them to improve their literacy skills. Early evaluation of CORAL has shown that two-thirds of more than 600 participants have improved by up to two reading levels!

Ten-year-old Lee is trying to learn English. He is one of many students at John Still where English isn't his first language. Both his parents speak Hmong. Lee said that when he's learning English, "I feel great because when someone asks me, I answer them."



*The CORAL program is helping Lee read and write in English*

Lee says through CORAL, he has "learned patience by taking turns." The varied and interesting reading exercises have helped Lee develop his English skills, and all the CORAL staff at John Still are very proud of his hard work and dedication.

Lee is a motivation for CORAL. He has goals, which the program can fulfill, and he has dreams that we can help make come true. To learn how you can support CORAL, contact Rashid at 916.424.3237 x214.



### Hip Hop Reader's Parade...

On October 31, literacy day came through Parkway Elementary school as the Hip Hop Reader's Parade! Tommy Goss, Davey D & Mixxula from The Bomb 103.5 FM and staff from the Sacramento Rivercats joined the Center for Fathers and Families' to read to every class on campus. Many people dressed as their favorite literary character - and the smiles from the children were incredible!

"The kids loved it!" commented Greg Lawson, Parkway Site Coordinator. "They had a blast being visited by all the guest readers, and they saw how fun reading a book can be."

The next Hip Hop Reader's Parade will be in March. Get Involved! To read to a classroom, contact Greg at 916.433.7377.

*To learn more about a Center program, call 916.424.3237 or visit [www.fathersandfamilies.com](http://www.fathersandfamilies.com)*

**United  
Way**



The Center for Fathers and Families is a certified partner with United Way. You can support us by designating number 5773.



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**Strengthening Families,  
Building Communities**

**Volunteer Opportunities!**

**Lunch Buddies**



Here is your chance to make an enormous difference to a young child... be a Lunch Buddy! Our AWARE enrichment program at Parkway Elementary school in south Sacramento needs you. Lunch Buddies dedicate 45 minutes each week to have lunch with a young Parkway student during his or her lunch period. No special skills are required ~ we need caring people who are ready to listen. The impact you will make is immeasurable.

To become a Lunch Buddy, contact Parkway Site Coordinator Greg Lawson at 916.433.7377 or greg@fathersandfamilies.com.

Spend two days (or more) each month helping students in the Intel Computer Clubhouse at the Center with their homework. We especially need people with math and science skills to help our middle and high school age youth. The hours are 3pm-5:30pm on an assigned weekday. We hope our homework helpers can commit to one day every other week, and more often if possible!

To sign-up, contact Rashid or Rian at 916.424.3237 or rashid@fathersandfamilies.com.

**Thank you!**



**Homework  
Helpers**