



Fathers & Families
SUPPORT CENTER
HELP FOR FATHERS. HOPE FOR FAMILIES.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 60 Years of Collective Black Leadership: The Trio Driving St. Louis' \$16M Impact at Fathers & Families Support Center

This Black History Month, FFSC Celebrates Three Leaders Who Transformed Two Decades of Service into a National Model for Strengthening Families.



ST. LOUIS, MO – In an industry often defined by high turnover, local nonprofit Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) is anchoring its Black History Month celebration with a rare "Living History" milestone. Leadership pillars **Cheri Tillis** (CEO), **Destini Goodwin** (COO), and **Reginald Slaughter** (Community Outreach Coordinator) are each marking over 20 years of dedication to a mission that fosters healthy relationships by strengthening St. Louis families.

Their combined 60-year legacy has helped the agency return **\$16,423,312** to the St. Louis community in 2024 alone.

Under the steady hand of these three architects, FFSC has evolved from a targeted local initiative into a holistic community pillar that now serves mothers and at-risk youth alongside fathers. Their shared two-decade legacy has helped transform nearly 22,000 men into responsible parents, fundamentally changing the lives of over 53,000 sons and daughters who now have more stable, present role models.

This Black History Month, FFSC honors these trailblazers who have dedicated their lives to the agency's core goal of breaking the cycles of poverty, child neglect, and welfare dependence in St. Louis

Quotes from the Leaders

"Black History Month is a time to reflect on the institutions that sustain our community, and for 28 years, we have worked to ensure every father is a responsible parent committed to a cohesive family," says **Cheri Tillis, CEO**. "Our mission to foster healthy relationships by strengthening families is as vital today as it was two decades ago."

"Watching our participants achieve an 83% increase in parenting skills is what has kept me here for 23 years ," says **Destini Goodwin, COO**. "We've built a rigorous six-week 'full immersion' program that creates lasting stability for both fathers and mothers."

"In 25 years, I've seen the power of economic empowerment firsthand ," says **Reginald Slaughter, Community Outreach Coordinator**. "When our participants earn an average of \$18.16 an hour—well above the state minimum—they aren't just supporting their children; they are reinvesting \$10.7M back into our local economy."

The Legacy of Impact (2024 Outcomes)

- **Economic Reinvestment:** 298 participants obtained or maintained employment, resulting in **\$10.7M** reinvested back into the local economy.
- **Safety and Stability:** The agency maintains a **3% recidivism rate** for its Re-Entry Project, significantly lower than the Missouri state average of 35%.
- **Child Support:** Between 2019 and 2024, the program helped the state collect **\$5,926,609** in child support from participants.
- **Next Generation:** 76% of youth in the Leadership & Development Program decreased high-risk behaviors like gang involvement and substance abuse.

About Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC)

FFSC is a 501(c)(3) comprehensive social service agency dedicated to fostering healthy relationships by strengthening families and promoting responsible fatherhood. Since 1997, FFSC has supported nearly 22,000 parents and impacted the lives of more than 53,000 children in the St. Louis region.

A Proven Return on Investment: Building Stable Families

FFSC's holistic approach, which couples trauma therapy with job training, life skills and parenting tools, yields tangible results that demonstrate the power of healing to stabilize entire communities:

- **Stronger Families:** **259** parents graduated in 2024, positively impacting **782** children. **83%** reported increased parenting skills.
- **Economic Stability:** Graduates achieved an average wage of **\$18.16 per hour**. The program helped secure or maintain employment for **298** participants, injecting **\$10.7 million** into the local economy.
- Between 2019 – 2024, FFSC helped the State of Missouri **collect \$5,926,609 in child support paid** by Family Formation participants.
- **Reduced Recidivism:** The Re-Entry Project boasts a remarkable **3% recidivism rate**—a fraction of the 35% Missouri average—showing that emotional healing and job readiness are powerful deterrents to re-offense.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** FFSC returns nearly **\$5.00 to the community for every \$1 invested**.

FFSC is not just treating symptoms; it's transforming individuals into responsible, emotionally resilient parents who can support their children—materially, emotionally, and developmentally.

Contact: Sid Officer at 314-351-2818 (text/call) or visit our website at <https://www.fatherssupportcenter.org>; [Press Kit](#)