

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The \$17.8 Million Return on Fatherhood: St. Louis Non-Profit Proves Present Dads are the Key to Regional Economic and Social Stability



**ST. LOUIS, MO** — While national headlines often focus on the "fatherless crisis," one St. Louis organization is proving that the solution to generational poverty and community safety isn't found in a courtroom, but in a classroom.

[Fathers & Families Support Center](#) (FFSC) has released its [2025 Annual Report](#), revealing a staggering **\$17.8 million return on investment** to the St. Louis community. The data highlights a transformative shift in the region: FFSC participants helped the State of Missouri collect over **\$5.9 million in child support** and reinvested **\$10.3 million back into the local economy** through legal, sustainable employment.

"A father's presence is more than a domestic ideal; it is an economic and social engine," says CEO Cheri Tillis. "When a father moves from the sidelines into his child's life, we see recidivism rates plummet to 7%—nearly five times lower than the state average—and average wages climb 35% above the state minimum."

The data is backed by the lived experiences of eight "Blueprints of Manhood"—graduates who have rewritten their legacies through FFSC's rigorous [Family Formation](#) program:

- **Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration:** Alum [Anthony Palmer](#) broke a three-generation cycle of "fatherhood via phone call" from prison, while [Devion Hurse](#), who was once a

statistic of the streets, now operates two small businesses and a braiding bar alongside his wife.

- **From "Defeated" to CEO:** [Todd Williams](#) was one week away from moving out of state after losing hope in a custody battle; today, he is a dual-coast CEO with 50/50 joint custody of his twins.
- **Overcoming the Odds:** [Larry Williams](#), described as the agency's "Gold Standard," overcame the challenges of a wheelchair and a history of incarceration to become a mentor for new classes, while Navy Veteran [Gibran Irving](#) transitioned from homelessness to a career with the VA, raising three high-achieving children.
- **Restoring the Household:** [David Hrabovsky](#) outran a family legacy of addiction to secure full custody of his son. [Antonio Davis](#) and [Malcome Henderson](#) both moved past high-conflict, expensive legal battles—with Malcome redirecting \$30,000 in legal fees back into his household—to establish healthy, collaborative co-parenting relationships.

The 2025 outcomes show that this transformation is the rule, not the exception. **81% of participants** reported increased parenting skills, and **78%** saw improved co-parenting relationships.

Fathers & Families Support Center continues to invite local media to meet these men and witness the "full immersion" classes that are turning the tide for St. Louis families.

## **About Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC)**

FFSC is a nationally recognized agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and child neglect by preparing fathers and mothers to be financially and emotionally present. **Since its first class in 1998, FFSC has supported 23,000 men on their journey to responsible fatherhood, benefitting over 57,000 children** with parents who can support them emotionally, developmentally and materially. As a United Way Member Agency, FFSC provides "full immersion" parenting education, legal services, and employment mentoring to foster healthy, cohesive families.

### [Agency Programs and Outcomes](#)

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