

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Power of an Apology: How One St. Louis Father Rebuilt a Broken Family to Become 'Father of the Year'



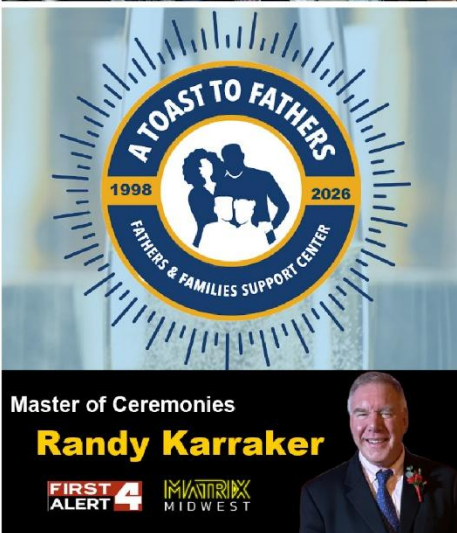
ST. LOUIS, MO — Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) is proud to announce [Antonio Davis](#) as its **2026 Father of the Year**. Selected for his extraordinary journey from personal disconnection to community leadership, Davis will be formally honored at the annual [“A Toast to Fathers”](#) Gala on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, and emceed by Sportscaster Randy Karraker.

Celebrating 28 years, FFSC’s annual Father of the Year award is the agency’s highest honor, reserved for men who have completely transformed their lives and the lives of their children.

"Selecting our Father of the Year is a rigorous process," explains Cheri Tillis, CEO of [Fathers & Families Support Center](#). "The recipient must be a graduate of our program who has spent at least two years consistently putting our teachings into practice. Antonio was chosen because he is a true asset to his family—**an ambitious and persistent man who has achieved measurable success in employment retention, profound**

**improvements in his family life and spiritual growth, and unwavering financial and emotional support for his children."**

Antonio’s story is a testament to the power of accountability. In 2023, after years of silence and a fractured relationship with his eldest son, Antonio enrolled in FFSC’s [six-week Family Formation](#)



[program](#). Utilizing the communication tools he learned, he offered a transformative apology to his son's mother, which paved the way for a successful 50/50 co-parenting plan.

"For a long time, the silence between me and my son felt like a mountain I couldn't climb. FFSC gave me the tools to stop looking at the obstacles and start looking at my own accountability," Davis says. **"Making that apology wasn't just about the past; it was about building a future.** Now, my son doesn't just see me—he hears me, and he knows I'm showing up for him every single day."

Today, Antonio is a constant, nurturing presence in the lives of all four of his children. His 16-year-old son, whom he was once separated from, now calls him the "foundation" of their family. **"I'm just glad dad never gave up on me," he says.** "For a long time, there was just a lot of noise and distance, but he did the work to find me and make things right. I love my dad, and I'm proud of the man he's become."

Beyond his home, Antonio has seen remarkable professional growth, moving from minimum-wage roles to a successful career as an Operations Manager, while also launching a small business and investing in local property.

"I thought it was all about me," Davis reflects. "I realized that instead of communicating, I would walk off. Through FFSC, I learned that the strongest thing a father can do is take accountability."

The community is invited to celebrate Antonio's journey and the mission of FFSC at the A Toast to Fathers Gala on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

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## **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](#)
- [2025 Annual Report](#)
- [Watch what we do!](#)
- [Antwane White video](#)

**Media Contact:** Sid Officer (Text/Call) 314-351-2818 [sofficer@fatherssupport.org](mailto:sofficer@fatherssupport.org)

[FathersSupportCenter.org](http://FathersSupportCenter.org)