



# SPOKANE FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

*Restoring the Value of Fatherhood*



## Relationship Training Classes Restore Broken Families, Create Generational Healing for Dads, Moms and Kids

Relationship training classes offered by the **Spokane Fatherhood Initiative (SpoFI)** have proven to be highly effective in healing family relationships, according to SpoFI founder and President Ron Hauenstein. “In every class we offer, we hear progress reports of dads connecting with their kids, sometimes after years of separation. We believe that these children who now feel a new sense of love and value will become better parents themselves someday.”

SpoFI has been offering comprehensive fatherhood classes since September of 2018, and recently added a communications course for moms called Understanding Dad.

“Father absence is the greatest social challenge we face today,” Hauenstein said, “Never before in this country have so many children been voluntarily abandoned by their fathers. Never before have so many children grown up without knowing what it means to have a father.”

“Our classes are a great combination of introspection that leads to character growth and behavioral change, plus parenting tips dads can add to their toolbox. At the outset, many dads enter their first class discouraged and pessimistic, but after just one or two sessions they develop a new sense of hope and optimism



for the future. Much of this emotional boost comes from being around other dads who face similar relationship challenges. Once men learn they are not alone and they find a safe place to share their concerns, they find new energy to address their problems. It’s a fascinating process to watch.”

### Programs and Services Offered by SpoFI

- **Relationship training for dads and moms**—comprehensive, evidence-based and evidence-supported training. Graduation rate: 93%!
- **Relationship education for teens**
- **Family law workshops**
- **Re-entry support** for men recently released from prison
- **Foster family support**
- **Conflict resolution workshops**
- **Group therapy for dads**
- **World-class Dad Jokes!**

#### DAD JOKE

Q: What did Dad say when he got a universal remote control for Father’s Day?

A: “This changes everything!”



# Responsible Fatherhood Training Produces Potential of \$177,000 in Benefits versus \$900 Cost of Programs

*Is it possible to measure the economic value of good parenting? Some recent research says yes, and even provides a dollar value.*

A study conducted for the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network estimates the total economic value of benefits due to successful participation in a Responsible Fatherhood program could reach about \$177,000 per father and about \$32,000 to \$38,000 per child.

How does responsible fathering translate into economic benefits? Simply put, dads who become committed to their children become better men who invest in themselves and support their families through hard work and sacrifice. As a result, participants in Responsible Fatherhood programs similar to SpoFI's experience:

- Improved education, employment and wage rates, which is associated with increased child support payments, tax revenues and avoided or reduced costs of unemployment, welfare, food, assistance and arrests.
- Positive father involvement in the lives of their children, which improves their children's social-emotional and cognitive competence

SpoFI's published fee schedule for one dad to attend a fatherhood class is \$900. Details about the study can be found at: [www.spofi.org/blog](http://www.spofi.org/blog).

## Dads Find Fellowship and Character Growth in 24-7 Dad Classes

Comments received from some of the men who have graduated from our 24-7 Dad classes:

*—I have more patience and better communication with my daughter and her mom.*

*—My dad gave me a lot of bad labels. I didn't realize the damage it did until this class.*

*—My relationship with my son has improved immensely.*

*—I further understand my deep frustrations with my ex and now know how to deal with them in a healthy and constructive manner moving forward.*

*—Now my daughter has a better dad and a better life ahead of her.*

*—It was a huge help knowing that I wasn't alone with these feelings that dads are undermined and underappreciated when it comes to raising children.*

*—I've noticed how much more intentional, mindful and aware I've become.*

## SpoFI Programs Restore the Value of Fatherhood

The Spokane Fatherhood Initiative incorporated as a faith-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit in July of 2017 with the vision and mission to **restore the value of fatherhood so that every child has a parent, loving and nurturing father**. SpoFI fulfills its vision and mission by offering:

- Relationship Training classes for dads and moms
- Direct Services for Families
- Community Education Events

The goal of SpoFI's training programs is to help dads and moms adopt the tools, skills and behavioral changes they need to become better spouses, parents and partners. We believe that cultural change occurs generationally so that equipping men and women to be better parents will result in children better equipped to change the future and reduce the social problems we see today.

Through SpoFI's programs, dads and moms get the tools, training, and encouragement they need to restore communication and relationship with their children and with each other. We have witnessed father-and-child reunification

dozens of times, in many cases after years of separation, much like what we see in Malachi 4:6: "And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers..."

In addition, SpoFI:

- Provides guidance, support and technical assistance to navigate the complex child welfare system and family court.
- Provides reentry support to Returning Citizens released from prison.
- Stages community workshops and outreach programs
- Trains and supports foster and adoptive families through a sub-ministry called Spokane127 [www.spokane127.org](http://www.spokane127.org).



# THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA

There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.4 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. Consequently, there is a "father factor" in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.



**POVERTY**  
4X GREATER RISK OF POVERTY



**BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS**  
MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS



**MOM-CHILD HEALTH**  
2X GREATER RISK OF INFANT MORTALITY



**INCARCERATION**  
MORE LIKELY TO GO TO PRISON



**CRIME**  
MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIME

**TEEN PREGNANCY**

7X MORE LIKELY TO BECOME PREGNANT AS A TEEN



**CHILD ABUSE**

MORE LIKELY TO FACE ABUSE AND NEGLECT



**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL



**CHILD OBESITY**

2X MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER OBESITY



**EDUCATION**

2X MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL



# 18.4

MILLION CHILDREN WITHOUT THEIR BIOLOGICAL FATHER AT HOME

**National Fatherhood Initiative®**

Visit [store.fatherhood.org/new-father-facts-8-download/](https://store.fatherhood.org/new-father-facts-8-download/) for more facts on father absence



SPOKANE  
**FATHERHOOD**  
INITIATIVE

## Restoring the Value of Fatherhood

Fatherlessness affects every employer, every school teacher, every cop, every social worker, every homeless shelter, every taxpayer.

The damaging consequences of father-absent homes are seen in every prison, every jail, every drug and alcohol treatment program. Every day, kids who grow up without fathers end up in the principal's office, the school counselor's office, the school nurse's office. They get expelled, they get sent to juvenile detention. Some are kidnapped and sold into prostitution. Some end up in the city morgue.

Fatherlessness affects every church. Fatherlessness is present in every Sunday School classroom. It touches every men's ministry, every youth program and every offering plate.

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**NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE**

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## BY THE NUMBERS

In the last **12** months:

**525**

hours of classroom instruction/  
community presentations

**105**

Graduates of relationship training classes

Since Sept, 2018 when SpoFI offered its first class:

**362**

Certificates of Completion

**100's**

**Hundreds** of hours of encouragement,  
support and prayer, resulting in ...

**12's**

**Dozens** of fathers reunited with their children

**On the horizon:**

Launch Family Law Resource Center

Add new teaching sites

Launch Parenting Education for teens



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## Let's Work to Prevent Problems, Not Just React to Them

A look at the most active social service programs in Spokane reveals a common denominator: nearly all of these programs are **reactive**. Homelessness, crime, poverty, addiction, mental health — millions of dollars are directed at treatment of symptoms rather than addressing root causes. Many organizations do valiant work under challenging circumstances and provide desperately needed protection and support, yet the issues remain persistently stubborn to resolve.

At the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative, we believe that fatherlessness — the devastating emotional, social and financial cost of absent fathers — is the root cause of nearly all of society's ills.

Who is working to prevent problems? What organizations are **proactive**? In particular, who is advocating for the needs of fathers and families? Who is working to keep families together, to help dads and moms learn to get along and cooperate with one another?

This is the work of the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative. We help dads and moms adopt the tools, skills and behavior changes they need to become better spouses, parents and partners. As we train this generation of parents, we are confident that their children, the next generation, will be better parents themselves.

Our programs are supported almost entirely by volunteers and private donations. If you'd like to help an organization that works to **prevent** problems, we need many more volunteers and additional financial support. You can reach us using the contact information elsewhere in this newsletter.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

—Ron Hauenstein, *President*  
info@spofi.org