Financial Impact of Fatherhood

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| **Monetary Value of Successful Participation in Fatherhood Programs per Father (Est.) (2019)** |
| **Impact** | **Lifetime Value** |
| Increased Lifetime Earnings | $149,000 |
| Increased Child Support Payments | $9,878 |
| Increased Taxes Paid | $11,131 |
| Value of Increased Community Involvement and Leadership | $1,500 |
| Crime Victimization Savings | $3,637 |
| Recidivism Savings to Government | $1,390 |
| TOTAL | $176,536 |

 A 2019 study[[1]](#footnote-1) by faculty from Temple University and staff from Wilder Research monetized the impact of HSE attainment and job placement assistance through fatherhood programs at $149,000 per father over their working life. Moreover, with increased income and fatherhood education comes increased child support payments for non-custodial fathers, estimated at $9,878 per father. Finally, with increased income comes increased income tax liability, estimated at $11,131 per father. Taken together, the net benefit to family and society for each father who completes a fatherhood program can be estimated at roughly over $170,000 nationwide.

These national numbers are supported by our own experience: For example, at entry into the Strong Fathers program, participant average annualized income is $8,000, due largely to the substantial majority who are unemployed when they come to us. Upon completion of the program, participants earned an average hourly wage of fifteen dollars. Presuming a forty-hour work week, this translates into increased income of over $23,000 per father per year. Needless to say, this benefits our communities in many ways. It increases the father’s ability to be a provider; meet child support needs; contribute to the local economy through increased buying power; and increasing contribution to the tax base. Another important contribution to our community and economy is reduced need for engagement in illegal activities to make ends meet; reducing criminal engagement, arrest and incarceration; and recidivism.

*Fathers and Families Center brings 3 key things to the table: development of human capital, workforce development and neighborhood stabilization – all important agenda items for Indy Chamber which is why we partner with them. As a Board member I am always looking for ways to be their champion.*

*Ian Nicolini*

*Chief Operating Officer*

*Indy Chamber*

This increased income is a necessary but not sufficient precedent to self-sufficiency. More important, as expressed in our mission statement, is the impact on the children of the fathers we serve. Merely increasing the time that a parent reads to a child as a result of parenting education can improve standardized test scores for children from 18% (for low-impact programs) to 36% (for high impact programs). This in turn increases the likelihood that the child will graduate from high school and lead a productive and fulfilling life. Through these and other avenues, the Temple/Wilder study estimates the lifetime monetary value of parental participation in fatherhood education to be from $32,000 to $38,000 per child.

Yet, there is so much more. How can we effectively quantify children living happy and healthy lives with hope for the future? Studies have shown that when fathers are engaged and supportive, it greatly affects a child's cognitive and social development; promoting inner growth and strength. It also instills an overall sense of well-being and self confidence. Our experience, backed by the literature on the value of fatherhood programming, makes clear the importance of Fathers and Families Center—not just to the individual families we serve but also as an investment in the future our all of our children and communities.

1. <https://www.frpn.org/asset/potential-monetary-value-responsible-fatherhood-program-outcomes-fathers-and-children> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)