

Jeff Gleason



Action for Children nominated Jeff Gleason. “Jeff began his journey to sobriety after the birth of his second child. While fighting this battle, Jeff struggled with the loss of trust from his co-parent. The stress of this situation led to a relapse and ultimately incarceration. While incarcerated, he joined the Father Factor program. One of his biggest takeaways was forgiveness. Forgiving himself and others helped Jeff to shift his perspective from attributing blame to taking accountability. Since then, he has improved his relationship with his children and their mothers insurmountably. Jeff credits his experiences in Father Factor, his love for family, and his faith in God for helping him persevere on the road to change. Jeff has committed himself to continued growth in order to better serve himself, his family, and his community.”

Mathew McEntire

“Community Action Organization (CAO) of Scioto County Inc. nominated Mathew McEntire, who has gone through 24/7 Dads AM and PM, is over a year sober, and currently with Shawnee Counseling Center. He has been placed into the work experience program here at CAO and we have noticed major strides in his mood, behavior, and outlook on life. Mathew has two children who are currently under the care of his parents, but he gets regular time with them and has made tons of comments on how the Dads Matter Program has impacted his life.”



Cody Clark



Early Childhood Resource Center nominated Cody Clark. “We first met Cody at a community-based correctional facility. He was engaged in class and quickly applied what was learned in the classroom. Cody has been working with Superior Dairy for the last two years. He has been promoted twice and is currently working in the electrical maintenance department. He has used concrete supports to build a better life for his three daughters. He is spending time with his girls on a daily basis and exemplifies an attitude that fosters continual growth in his fatherhood journey.”

“Pathway nominated Adonis Irish, as he is a single father of three who recently completed Brothers United. He is an alumnus who chose to join Brothers and Sisters United as a staff member, and is co-parenting. After he and his co-parent broke up he called us back because he wants to navigate having the best relationship with his co-parent in raising there two children. He has his children every Thursday through Sunday and navigates his work schedule and has built a strong support system. He is in his 20s, yet he recognizes the importance of being a father. He grew up in the housing developments with his mother and didn’t know his father. He graduated high school, yet it was from a non-traditional school where he now works with youth in our BYOUth program. He is also studying for his real estate license and has been an advocate for young fathers in our program. He recently did a video for Juneteenth and sparked a social media campaign, ‘Giving fathers their flowers’ in the month of June.”

Adonis Irish



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Eric Spottz



Talbert House nominated Eric Spottz. "Eric Spottz is a Talbert House Fatherhood alumnus and current client and has been involved with Talbert House's Nurturing Fathers Project since 2023. Eric's motivation for coming to the program was to gain legal custody of his daughter, who was eight years old at the time. Emma was Eric's only child, and he knew that he would have to obtain every possible tool to be the best father possible. Talbert House's Fatherhood Project was the perfect vehicle for Eric."

Eric enrolled in Cohort 59 and successfully completed it on June 27, 2023. He used the parenting tools acquired from the curriculum to build a loving environment for Emma. He obtained a larger apartment and ensured that Emma's room was age-appropriate and more than adequate. Emma's outlook improved dramatically, and her grades reflected the benefits of having a parent like Eric. He now describes her as, "happy and well-adjusted."

Marquis Richardson

Urban Family Development Center nominated Marquis Richardson. "Marquis Richardson has demonstrated exceptional dedication to his development as a father in the Dads2B program for 2023-2024. His perfect attendance record and active participation in applying course material to real-life situations are commendable. As an expectant stepfather with a baby due in May 2024, Marquis leads his household with love and encouragement. His commitment to self-reflection, accountability, and selflessness is evident as he and his family grow together as a cohesive unit."

Marquis has further solidified his commitment to combating infant mortality by dedicating personal time to gain knowledge and become a staunch advocate for his partner and their



upcoming child. Marquis exemplifies that fathers need not be in dire straits to benefit from our program. Despite his stability, commendable employment, and secure living situation, Marquis has embraced the Dads2B program, enriching his role as a man and father. He has transformed stress into knowledge, isolation into camaraderie, and societal constraints on fatherhood into a sense of empowerment."

Additional honorees included: Michael Parsons, Karl Justus IV, Michael Edwards, and Reginald Walker.



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