

The Conversation

June 2024

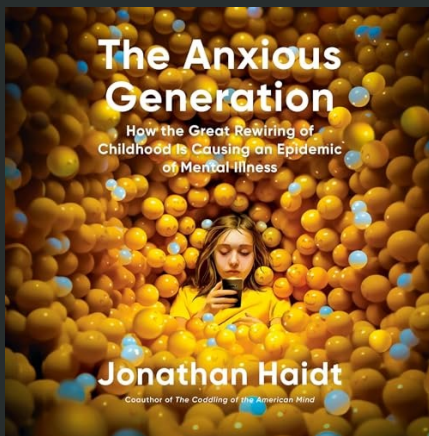
Mission:

To bring a revival of the fundamental role of fatherhood to today's family unit..

Vision:

To see loving, engaged fathers at the core of every family unit, and support for all those serving in the role of father figures

Books we like about keeping kids safe



Join The Conversation

In this issue, Foster-Con contribution by Steve Meyers of Saving Innocence

The Founder's Conversation Starter

"You're not just reading them a story. You're holding their hand, opening a door, and showing them what the world is like." Tom Burns

Those of you who know me as an English as a Second Language teacher, probably know I love movies and ok, not for everyone, but I really like a lot of Indian and Bollywood movies. 3 Idiots is in my top 10 films and another, Like Stars on Earth, or Mere Pyare Prime Minister are films that deal with deep and painful topics but with humor and the magic of suspended belief and colorful dance. Sometimes we believe to tackle some of the darkest and most dangerous threats to our children and families, we need big clubs or heavy weapons. Father-Con believes in the data that confirms that one of the greatest weapons we have to influence and shape the future success of our children, is as simple as fathers reading at home to their kids. *"In the fall of 2015, a Harvard study conducted over a year by Dr. Elisabeth Duursma, found that children benefit more from their father reading them bedtime stories than their mother. She suggested that questions posed by men when reading to children were found to have sparked challenging "imaginative discussions" and were better for the children's language development. Girls in particular were found to have benefitted more when read to by a male."* Studies in the U.S., United Kingdom, Sweden and more, all confirm that when dads read, they open the door to success in language acquisition, school - including decrease in dropping out, and they are healthier emotionally and mentally. Of course there is no silver bullet that acts as a guaranteed safeguard to the incessant encroachment of apps and platforms that claw their way into our homes whispering dark promises to anyone online and listening, with terrifying consequences for children, however, reading instead of streaming before bed, is a thrust up toward the stars for our kids.

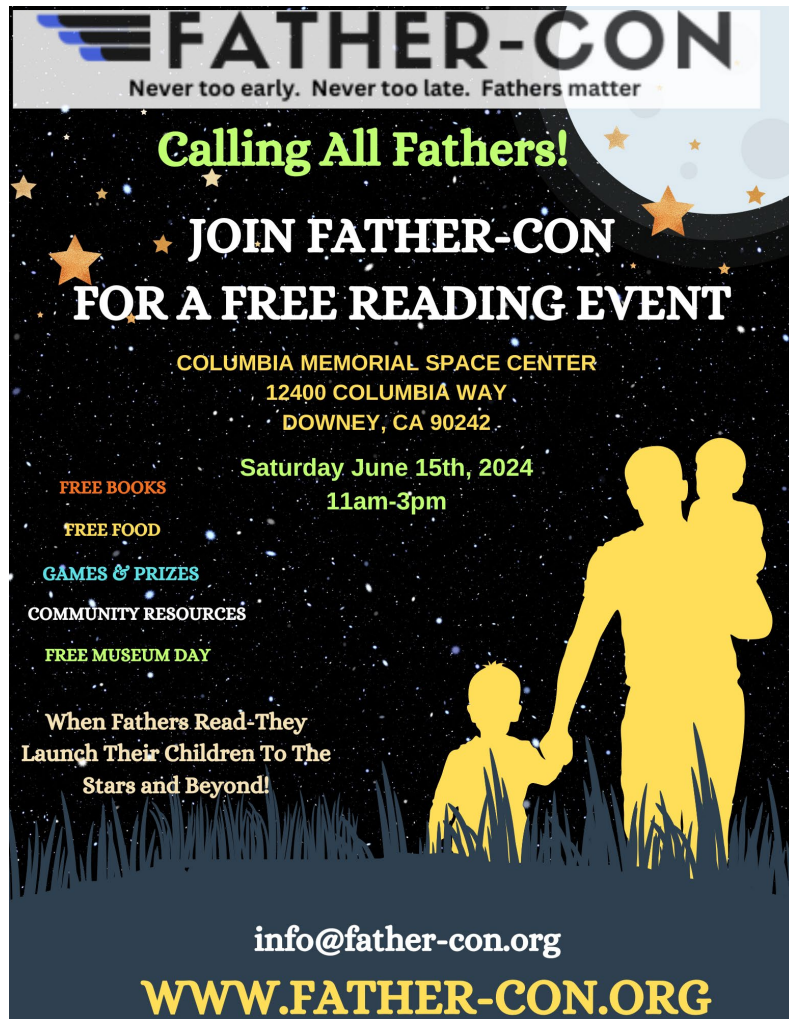
June 15th at the Columbia Memorial Space Center, Father-Con is hosting a day of free books, reading, games and free pizza, as well as a free museum day for all families who attend this pre-Father's Day event. Also in Santa Clarita at the Park Sierra Apartment a father reading event will be held for children and families.



Patrick Erlandson – Father & new grandfather Founder: Father-Con and See it. End it. Film & Arts Festival

Upcoming Events of Father-Con June 15th - Just in time for Father's Day

When fathers read - kids succeed!



FATHER-CON
Never too early. Never too late. Fathers matter

Calling All Fathers!

**JOIN FATHER-CON
FOR A FREE READING EVENT**

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER
12400 COLUMBIA WAY
DOWNEY, CA 90242

**Saturday June 15th, 2024
11am-3pm**

FREE BOOKS
FREE FOOD
GAMES & PRIZES
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
FREE MUSEUM DAY

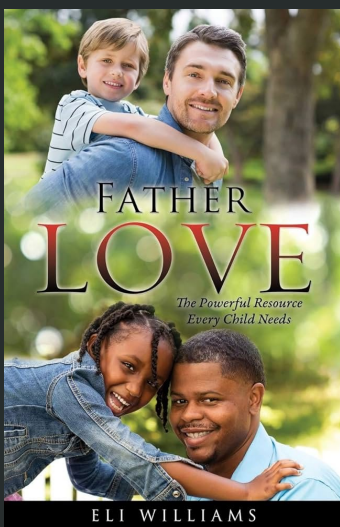
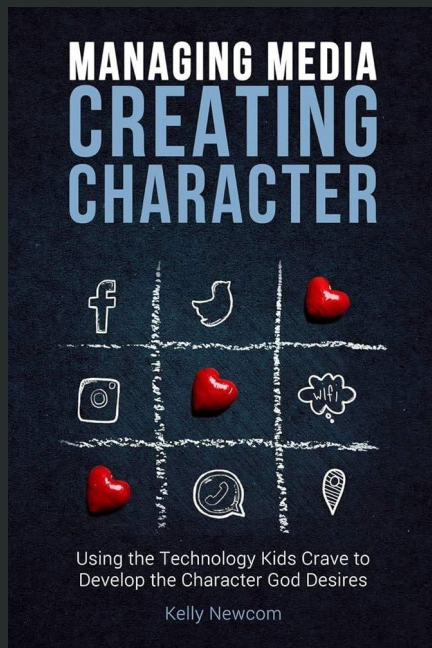
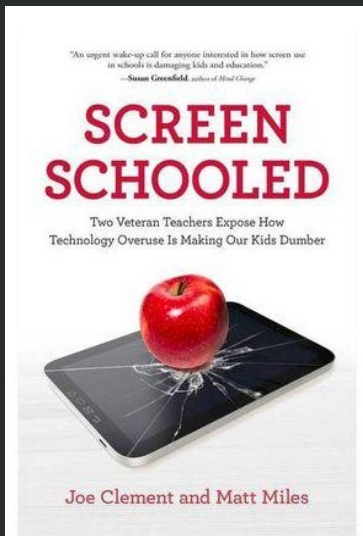
**When Fathers Read-They
Launch Their Children To The
Stars and Beyond!**

info@father-con.org
WWW.FATHER-CON.ORG

Families will be able to spend the day at the Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey - receive free books, meet authors, enjoy free pizza and games and prizes and more! If you are an author and would like to participate in this event, contact patrick@father-con.org

For information about the Fathers Reading event in Santa Clarita, contact Bob Levy at bob@father-con.org

Make a world of difference – for our children and the communities they live in. Give generously to Father-Con



Foreword by John Richmond
Former US Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking

MEN! FIGHT FOR ME

The Role of Authentic Masculinity
in Ending Sexual Exploitation
and Trafficking



Alan Smyth • Jessica Midkiff

Available at:
Fightforme.net

Pictures of Father-Con
2023 at
<https://www.father-con.org>

Foster-Con

Our column for all things foster-care and good for those children thrust into the system.

Fatherhood is more than just a title; it's a calling that has the power to profoundly change lives in a positive way. By contributing author Steve Meyers - Family engagement specialist / recruiter with Saving Innocence

I work for an anti-trafficking organization and foster family agency which has spent the past 14 years supporting and advocating for children, yes I said children, who have been commercially sexually exploited (CSE) or sex trafficked. It is because of these kids we search and search to invite men and women to become a foster parent. Here in LA County, there are over 33 thousand children in the foster care system. 60% of kids who have been commercially sexually exploited are kids in the system. The number one reason these kiddos are vulnerable to traffickers is because they lack a healthy safe and loving family. I would argue, they lack a healthy safe and loving father.

For kids who have been through the unimaginable horrors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), the presence of a loving, stable, and caring father figure can be nothing short of lifesaving. Foster care dads, in particular, have a unique opportunity to make a lasting difference.

Mike and Sarah, a married couple opened their home to Jayla, a young girl with a painful past of commercial sexual exploitation. Sarah was a very nurturing mom and developed a close relationship, but it was Mike's role as a father figure that made a unique and transformative impact on Jayla. Initially, as you would expect, Jayla was uncomfortable around men. Men in her life up that point had only brought her pain. Mike was patience and consistent. He didn't push to much, or try too hard, he was just there, always ready to listen, to help if needed. He would invite Jayla to help him cook dinner or make cookies. He got her going on family hikes, and even showed her how check the oil in his truck. They might be small but these moments were monumental for Jayla. Slowly, she sees Mike as a role model of a man—a man that could actually be funny, kind, safe, and trustworthy.

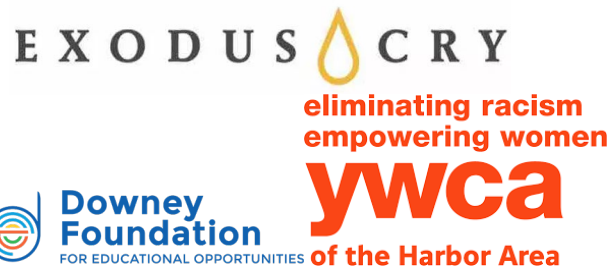
Studies have shown that children with strong, positive relationships with father figures are more likely to succeed in school, enjoy better mental health, and steer clear of high-risk behaviors. For a child who has endured the nightmare of CSE, your guidance and support can be the turning point towards a brighter, safer future.

So, to all the men out there—think about the profound difference you can make as a father - bio dad, step dad, foster dad, grand dad, etc. I'm sure, being a foster father may have been the last thing you've ever thought about, but maybe, just maybe someone reading this might just be up for the challenge! Maybe you could be the father figure whose consistent care could be the very thing that turns their pain into healing and their fear into hope.

If you have questions about fostering or fostering to adopt. Please contact me Bob Levy – blevy@fosterall.org (818) 649-8018

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ARTISTS FOR CHANGE

