

The Conversation

September 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



Join The Conversation

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patrick@father-con.org

In this issue a special report on life saving legislation by Sam Chapman
And response to the Surgeon General Report on Parenting by Kimberly Ells

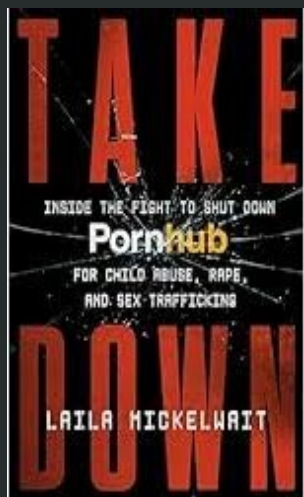
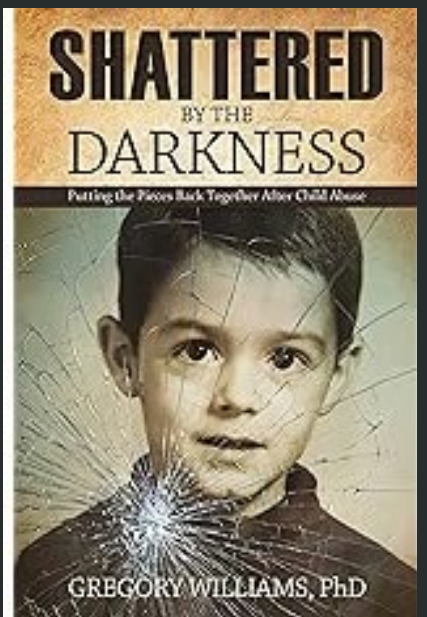
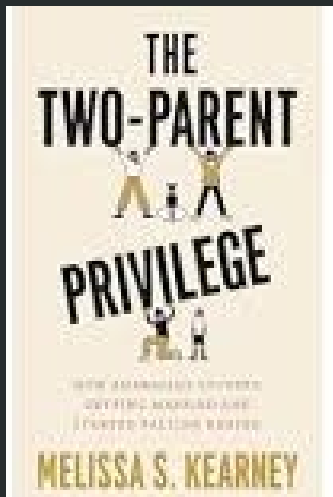
The Founder's Conversation Starter

"Males look to be served. Men look to be of service" Dondre Whitfield

Two weeks ago, the Surgeon General of the United States issued a warning, much like past warnings, "smoking can be hazardous to your health," or obesity and loneliness are not healthy for humans. This warning, Parental Mental Health and Well Being, declares that being a parent today can be challenging to your mental health (article by Kimberly Ells below). As parents we face unprecedented challenges and though there are some who say these times are just like other generations past, with new music, new attitudes, and new attire, but I think not. We have never had a time remotely close to the times we are living through and the challenges to parents are amplified by massive competition with devices that deliver the unimaginable and the global with a soft hum or programmed melody. Parents must compete with work demands, unsettling social confusion and the constant barrage of messages that getting what you want will be your path to happiness and a successful life and aren't you lucky! there is an algorithm all primed and ready to tell you what you want! We are fed a constant diet of processed food, unrelenting distraction, and propaganda of entitlement. And the very temptations we are failing at controlling we expect our children to miraculously manage safely.

Segue to – Father-Con is coming up on October 11th with a keynote address by actor and author Dondre Whitfield who wrote the insightful book, Male vs Man. All day Saturday is a FREE open-door invitation to get information about a diverse range of topics of concern, challenge and opportunity for fathers to be part of thriving families. There will also be dozens of community resources to connect with so no one will walk away without support and tools to better manage the obstacles and threats our families face today.

This 5th annual conference is being held at the beautiful Cal State University Dominguez Hills in Carson in Los Angeles. There will be translation, workshops in Spanish and the film screening of the **award-winning film on human trafficking** in the US, **MAYA**, in both Spanish and English followed by a panel



discussion and Q/A. **Topics of workshops include, Men's Mental Health, Healing from Abuse and Trauma, Fentanyl and Cyber Safety. Pornography and Human Trafficking, Faith and Fatherhood, Family Legal Issues, Women and Fathers, and many more.** Please plan to attend and invite friends, neighbors and relatives that can use a day to get fired up and encouraged about being dads or future dads, or those men called to blessed position of father-figure. We will also be honoring 3 recipients of this year's Heart of the Father Award, Lanny Cordola, Steven Salgado and Angel Umanzor of Homeboy Industries Youth Center. See you there to get fired-up as fathers and about fatherhood! Women are more than welcome...we all have dads and dads to deal with!



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

NEVER TOO EARLY. NEVER TOO LATE. **FATHERS MATTER.** 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday October 11
6 - 9 pm

Keynote address
Dondre Whitfield

Actor &

Author of **Male vs Man**

Three-time Emmy nominee, Whitfield's career over a quarter century has seen him work with John Travolta, Helen Mirren, David Oyelowo, Michael B. Jordan, and Kevin Hart. and co-creator of the global, **The Manhood Tour**



CAL STATE
UNIVERSITY
DOMINGUEZ HILLS
Loker Student
Union Building
1000 E Victoria
St, Carson,
90747

\$35.00 for
Friday
Light meal



[https://Father-
Con2024Dondre.
eventbrite.com](https://Father-Con2024Dondre.eventbrite.com)

STURDAY 9 AM - 4PM
KEYNOTES
25 WORKSHOPS
30 RESOURCE
ORGANIZATIONS
3 HEART OF THE FATHER
AWARDS
FREE LUNCH & PRIZES

**MORE
INFO**

www.father-con.org

**BRINGING A REVIVAL OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE
OF FATHERHOOD TO TODAY'S FAMILY UNIT.**

We take on the con, the lies we are told that diminish the significance of fatherhood and family.

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>

FATHER-CON
NEVER TOO EARLY. NEVER TOO LATE. FATHERS MATTER.

THE FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE 2024



5TH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

SATURDAY
10.12.24
9 - 4 PM

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone who wants to see
families stronger, children
safer and fathers and father
figures love being dads!

30 RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS

**CAL STATE
UNIVERSITY
DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

Loker Student
Union Building
1000 E Victoria
St, Carson,
90747

**MORE
INFO**



www.father-con.org

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: 20 WORKSHOPS

- **Cyber Safety & Legislation to Protect Kids** - Sam Chapman
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences & Trauma** - Dr. Gregory Williams
- **Fentanyl the Crisis - What you need to know.** - English & Spanish
- **Human Trafficking - Here and Now** - Tera Hilliard of Forgotten Children
- **Faith & Fatherhood**
- **Legal Matters for Fathers & Family** - LA Dependency Lawyers
- **Pornography** - Jewell Barraka author Coming of Age on a Porn Set
- **Teen Fathers - The Challenges and Blessings** : Panel discussion with
- **Homeboy Industries** - Gabriel Lopez & Steven Salgado
- **Men's mental health**
- **What You Can Do About Human Trafficking** Susan Patterson
- **Film Screening of MAYA** Award-Winning human trafficking film Spanish/English - Julia Verdin & Panel
- **Pastors & Leaders - dealing with sensitive issues** - Dr. Sam Serio therapist and author of Sensitive Preaching to the Sexually Hurting
- **Modern Fatherhood.** - Ronnie Fernandez
- **Healing generations** - Serafin Serrano
- **Future Fathers** - Mark Winkler

3 HEART OF THE FATHER AWARDS

Lanny Cordola - Miraculous Love Kids
Steven Salgado & Angel Umanzor

TIME TO LEARN, GET INSPIRED, EQUIPPED AND CELEBRATE FATHERHOOD!

SAVE THE DATE

FATHER-CON
NEVER TOO EARLY. NEVER TOO LATE. FATHERS MATTER.



image by Aleksandar(tittewolf) on Freepik

FATHER-CON QUINTA CONFERENCIA ANUAL



Dondre Whitfield
Actor / Autor de
Male vs Man

ORADORES

25 TALLERES-PRESENTACIONES

40 ORGANIZACIONES DE RECURSOS

EL PREMIO "EL CORAZON DE PADRE"

Y MUCHO MAS

**CAL STATE
UNIVERSITY
DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

Loker Student
Union Building
1000 E Victoria St,
Carson, 90747

MÁS
INFORMACIÓN



OCTUBRE 11, 6-9PM
OCTUBRE 12, 9AM-4PM

@fathercon.org
www.fathercon.org

PRESENTANDO UN RESTABLECIMIENTO DEL PAPEL FUNDAMENTAL
DE LA PATERNIDAD A LA UNIDAD FAMILIAR DE HOY EN DÍA

We take on the con, the lies we are told that diminish the significance of fatherhood and family.

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



Also Father-Con on Zelle And checks to Father-Con. Mail to
Father-Con 1990 Avenida Feliciano, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA (0275

Foster-Con

A Missionary In Your Own Home

Continued from last month's article called "Full Circle"

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

This sonnet by Emma Lazarus is inscribed at the base of our Statue of Liberty and was written in 1883, at a time that it looked like all hell broke loose in New York. We've seen the images at our borders, in trucks, trains, boats, and detentions centers. We are Americans. This is us! All of us are transplants from all over the world. Seeking democracy, justice and freedom. If we ourselves don't have a story about coming over to this country, I guarantee our parents, grandparents and great grandparents do.

Now children from all over the world are being sent here for many reasons. Some wholesome, some not. But all in all, ***they are children***. They are abandoned. They are scared, confused, angry, wounded, traumatized. They are victims of a merciless world.

While some of us have a heart to travel the world offering aid and relief to these children, they are now coming to us.

This is not a call to adopt. These children are not adoptable.

This is a call to love and care for a child that has been abandoned at our borders and show them love, comfort and hope in their most uncomfortable and hopeless time.

It is a time to save them from being targets of human traffickers.

It is time to help heal those who've been rescued from traffickers.

It is a time to help them reunify with family...either here or in their country of origin.

In the times of the early Church. If a Roman child was deformed or not viewed as healthy, they put them outside the walls of the town to die. It was the early Christians, that took these children into their homes, because they realized that all though these were the children of their oppressors, they too were made in God's image and deserved the same love that they themselves had experienced.

For those of you, who are like me, and don't really want to travel the globe offering aid...

Think of it like: "Being a missionary in your own home!"

All the costs for these children are covered by our Federal Government.

Please contact me for more information.

Bob Levy- FosterAll

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

Father-Con invites you to contribute to our monthly publication – submit contributions at info@father-con.org

Sam Chapman on legislation requiring urgent response.

<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/faces/success.xhtml>

Sammy's Law, SB1444 is up for a vote in the California Senate. We need messages of support sent to the link above. Organizations and California citizens opinions matter in these votes. Sammy's Law would require third party safety software integration into social media and gaming platforms with children as users. SammysLaw.Org Bark.USp

We have until October 7th for Governor Newsom to allow **SB976** to become law in California. The bill will turn off dangerous and addictive algorithms for children and turn off social media all together during school and sleep hours. Let the Governor know if you support the bill:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/>

The U.S. Surgeon General Issues an Advisory on the Dangers of Parenting

By Kimberly Ells

The U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, just issued an official advisory warning against the stressful nature of parenting and labeling it “an urgent public health issue.” The document says Surgeon General Advisories “require the nation’s immediate awareness and action.” So, according to the Surgeon General, what exactly is the urgent issue and what immediate actions should be taken to rescue parents from the stress of raising their own children?

In short, the advisory cites data showing that parents experience more stress than non-parents and that sometimes some parents’ stress levels are so high they cannot function. It says parental stress can negatively affect children. It says major sources of parental stress include “financial strain and economic instability, time demands, concerns over children’s health and safety, parental isolation and loneliness, difficulty managing technology and social media, and cultural pressures.”

All true.

I’m a mom of five children, and I birthed four of them within a timespan of roughly five years. 12 years later I had a baby in my 40s. We had diapers and dating going on at the same time. I’m no stranger to stress. I have known financial strain, the instability of layoffs, bone-deep fatigue, and so much more.

As for not being able to function, that depends on your definition of the word “function.” (Does inventing games where I lay motionless on the bed while my kids pile heaps of clean laundry on top of me count as “functioning”?) Parenting has beat the stuffing right out of me at times. But through all these years, I never saw my children as a threat to my mental health.

Children are a Danger to Their Parents

This Surgeon General’s Advisory is the first time I recall seeing an official government entity framing children as a clear and present danger to their parents. It reminds me of radical feminist Sophie Lewis’ assertion that babies in utero commit “fetal violence” toward their mothers by introducing health threats to and demanding nourishment from their unfortunate maternal hosts. Likewise, Suzanne Sadedin says an unborn baby employs “manipulation, blackmail, and violence” against its mother while

floating in the womb and usurping whatever sustenance it can suck from her body.

Collectivism is Always the Answer

What does the Surgeon General say should be done about this assault on parents' health? The "We Can Take Action" section of the advisory starts with this preface: "[W]hile parents and caregivers may have the primary responsibility for raising children...[it] is a collective responsibility." It then gives a laundry list of collectivist solutions including the following:

- "Bolster support for childcare financial assistance programs such as childcare subsidies and child income tax credits; universal preschool; early childhood education programs."
- "Establish a national paid family and medical leave program."
- Prioritize "poverty reduction, prevention of adverse childhood experiences...and improve access to healthy food and affordable housing."
- "Strengthen public and private insurance coverage of mental health care."
- Expand workplace policies including "paid parental, medical, and sick leave" and "access to childcare (in the community or on-site)"

Unsurprisingly, most of the solutions call for more government intervention and lots more childcare. (Sorry, but universal preschool has not been shown to improve the situation of the majority of children or their parents.) We will never fix the problem by encouraging less family unity and more government "help" that comes at the cost of higher taxes.

There doesn't seem to be acknowledgment in the Surgeon General's Advisory that the separation of parents and children for most of the waking hours of every day and the reality of both parents focusing most of their time and efforts outside the home may be contributing to the very problem they're trying to solve: the widespread breakdown of the mental health and happiness of both children and their parents.

The advisory does have some solid suggestions that deserve kudos. For instance, it urges friends and family members to offer practical support to parents including "lending assistance with household chores, childcare responsibilities, or running errands"

and “looking for ways to support parents and caregivers so they can take breaks, attend needed appointments, and engage in self-care activities.” Bravo.

Humble Solutions

Here are some additional suggestions for policymakers and individuals:

- Live near family. Grandparents and others can offer vital support. Studies show that living near grandparents can benefit children, parents, and grandparents.
- Ease parents’ financial burdens by lowering taxes; do this by eliminating social programs, not increasing or expanding them. Largely let families solve their own problems with their own money.
- Cultivate an economy in which one parent can primarily support the family financially and one parent can primarily focus on the physical and emotional needs of their children.
- Spend more time and effort preparing children for parenthood. Cultivate selflessness, sacrifice, and responsibility in children (Hint: Large families often foster this.) · Limit time spent on electronic devices for both parents and children (for more vital information on this see my articles [here](#) and [here](#).)
- Revitalize THE NEIGHBORHOOD. Initiate simple neighborhood gatherings to get to know the people around you. Use social media neighborhood groups to support each other, like offering to pick up a gallon of milk, etc. for the family next door.
- Don’t wait for the government to save you. If you are overstressed—as I was at one time when my kids were young—ask another parent to swap babysitting with you every week (or as often as needed.) Doing this reduced my stress level significantly.
- Reconsider and revise your priorities. If work has become more dominant than home life, or if your life is overrun with too much to do, simplify and sacrifice in order to focus on what matters most to you.

Despite the often chaotic and stressful nature of parenting, most parents see their children as a deep and satisfying source of joy—despite the pain. There is work and struggle in parenthood. That’s part of what you sign up for when you decide to welcome a helpless person into your life.

But you also sign up for a life of purpose and boundless adventure beyond what you could have imagined. And almost all parents rise to the occasion. They embrace the adventure of raising a family and it gives them both daily and lifelong purpose. At the end of the day—and at the end of their lives—most parents consider themselves better off rather than worse off for having embarked on the irreplaceable adventure of becoming parents.

[Kimberly Ells](#) is the author of *The Invincible Family*. Follow her at [Invincible Family Substack](#).



An Offer to participate in a coaching training for Non-profit organizations offered by a great supporter of Father-Con, David Kobelin

Subject Awyken ICF Coaching Training

I am writing to propose an introductory training program aimed at equipping your staff with foundational knowledge and practical skills in ICF (International Coach Federation) coaching principles and techniques. Investing in the professional development of your staff can significantly enhance your organizational effectiveness and impact.

Our proposed training program will cover the following key areas:

Introduction to Awyken/ICF Coaching:

What is Coaching?

Basic Coaching Skills:

Application of Coaching Techniques:

Building Coaching Relationships:

Integrating Coaching into Organizational Culture:

Our training program will be delivered by David Kobelin, an experienced Professional Certified Coach with the ICF, who has trained hundreds of coaches and served both non-profit and for-profit organizations. We understand the unique needs and challenges faced by non-profit

organizations, and our curriculum will be tailored to address these specific considerations.

The benefits of investing in Awyken/ICF coaching training for your staff are manifold. By equipping your team with coaching skills, you will enhance communication, foster a culture of collaboration, and empower individuals to take ownership of their personal and professional development. Ultimately, this will contribute to greater organizational effectiveness and mission fulfillment.

For more information contact David Kobelin
Chief Training Officer/Awyken Coach Training
dave@tharseo.com

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