



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 4

July - Aug - Sept 2017

Number 3

"A Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring" ©

~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

Brothers, as we prepared for our **issues forum** at the **Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference**, September 20-24, 2017, I reflected on the many areas that Omega men have touched working on fatherhood and mentoring.

Much of what we face is a result of the issues that impact our lives as Black men. As members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., we played an important part in the historic Presidency of former President Barack Obama through our partnership with the White House.

When President Obama was in office, among his important platforms were his **Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative**, which uplifted the critical role fathers and men play in the lives of their children, families and community, and the **My Brother's Keeper** initiative, a program that addressed the challenges facing young Black men and boys.

He took an aggressive leadership role in working on **Criminal Justice Reform**, issues such as **Mass Incarceration, Employment, Education, Affordable Healthcare, Mental Health, and Racial Justice**. These areas have implications for fathers and men.

As we have worked the fatherhood and mentoring areas the items mentioned above have surfaced as things that must be reckoned with. Sometime when we are working with fathers and mentees we may say in our mind that "we are helping them." We have to realize that we are also helping ourselves.

With our stature in the Black community we must continue to stand tall in protecting the President's legacy and our future. Many organizations see what we are doing and expect us to take a lead. The current administration has a desire to roll back many of the accomplishments. We must stand tall to resist that effort. We have to be about action addressing policy when necessary. The role the father plays in a family is critical. Our role in working with fathers, men and boys helping them to be better is critical.

Bro. Fairchild



Brother Robert W. Fairchild,
Chairman, International Committee
on Fatherhood and Mentoring

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"...reckoning with fatherhood and mentoring..." www.omegafandm.org ©

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In Washington, DC

CBCF Presents President Obama's Legacy on Fatherhood, Black Men and Boys Congressman Speaks on Persistence and Perseverance at CBCF/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Fatherhood and Mentoring Forum

By George D. Taylor

Washington, DC, September 21, 2017 – A CBCF (Congressional Black Caucus Foundation) issues forum hosted by CBC Member, the Honorable Congressman James E. Clyburn, Democrat, South Carolina's 6th District and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring was held Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Washington, DC Convention Center.

Brother Thabiti Boone, Fatherhood Representative and Liaison to Former President Barack Obama's White House and Robert W. Fairchild, Chairman of the committee **convened a distinguished panel of subject matter experts** to discuss several hot button issues facing the African American community.

Brother Boone Opened the session by introducing Congressman Clyburn, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who spoke of being awoken one morning with news about University of South Carolina football player, Tyshun "Deebo" Samuels, a junior and wide-receiver on the football team, who scored on the first play from scrimmage but will miss most of the season after suffering a fractured left fibula during the third quarter of the loss to Kentucky. Congressman Clyburn then told of Bo Jackson, former NFL player who fractured his hip and which ended his football career. Clyburn said, our charge as Omega men and Black men generally, is to prepare these young men to deal with life's realities for the rest of their lives. *"It is our job in these fraternities to prepare these young men for life,"* he said.

Brother Clyburn ended his remarks telling of his first three political failures. He appealed to the audience to "Never Give Up." Had he given up and quit the game, he said he would not have been where he is today – the third most powerful Democrat in the House of Representatives of the United States of America. Quoting the age-old adage, he said, "If at once you don't succeed, try, try again." He said to the audience excitedly, "Stay in the game. Our society does not move in a linear plane. It moves back and forth – left to right – and right to left - politically and socially." He asserted that we can make a difference when we work together and get involved in the process. "The pendulum," he said, "spends twice as much time in the center than on either side. So, stay in the game but always be prepared."



Congressman Clyburn

CBCF/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Panel of Subject Matter Experts:



L-R: Dr. David Marion; Jenabu Williams; E-Mani V. Viney; Dr. Stephanie Myers; Kevin Powell; Atty. Daryl Parks; Atty. Benjamin Crump

Subject matter experts were Devine 9 Fraternity and Sorority members:



A packed Convention Center Auditorium was the site of the CBCF issues forum hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring.

Dr. David Marion, Psychologist, 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Jenabu Williams, Educator, International Representative, Sigma Beta Club Mentoring Initiative, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; L-Mani S. Viney, Educator, Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation, Kappa League Mentoring Program; Dr. Stephanie Meyers, Black Women for Positive Change,

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Kevin Powell, Acclaimed Activist, Speaker, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Daryl D. Parks, Esq., General Counsel, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and Benjamin L. Crump, Esq., Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Hurricane Victims Help:

In Denver, CO: Father and Son Team on a Mission to Houston -Chi Phi Chapter



L-R: Lamont Shannon, '76; Quincy Shannon, '04, both Eta Sigma, Lincoln University

Out of the 8th District, a packed extended cargo van full of water, feminine items, diapers, new clothes, toys and more made its way to Houston, Texas because a father and son combination was on a mission. See story page 12.

Philadelphia, PA Uplifting Hurricane Victims Houston, TX

By Brother Patrick Robinson



See story page 9.

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Okinawa, Japan – Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter promoted the **Brother You Are on My Mind** Health Initiative during Okinawa's first Juneteenth Celebration. Brothers asked fathers in attendance to fill out mental health survey to help educate and increase the awareness of mental health challenges we face in our daily lives such as stress.

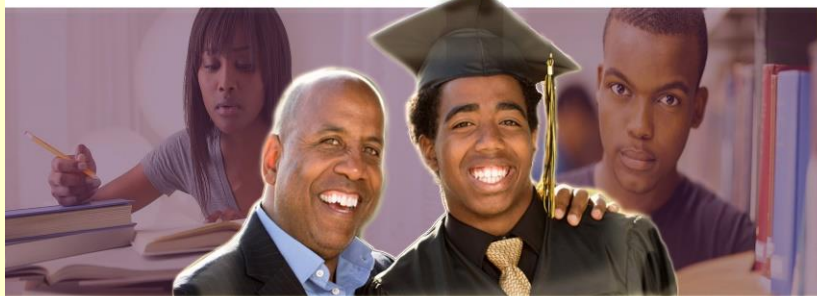
OMEGA MEN, SAVING LIVES ... ONE HANDSHAKE AT A TIME!

See Fatherhood and Mentoring website: www.omegafandm.org

In Atlanta



OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.
Undergraduate - Future Dads
PANEL DISCUSSION




**SATURDAY
JUNE 17, 2017** **11AM- 5PM**




Join us at this **Free Luncheon & Details** event where Fatherhood, the impact of premature parenting and the laws that affect non-custodial and single parents are presented by Judicial officials, attorneys, family advocates, mediators, students, and parents on:

Ω A Father's Value	Ω Non-custodial Parent Challenges
Ω Pre-mature Parenting	Ω Laws that Affect Single Parents
Ω Both Parents Matter	Ω Right Father for Your Child

**GEORGIA TECH UNIVERSITY
KLAUS ADVANCE COMPUTING BUILDING
(Klaus Lecture Auditorium)
266 Ferst Drive NW
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FUTURE DADS PROGRAM

See Story Page 10.

“...handshakes are ironclad contracts...”

Brother James E. Clyburn, U.S. Congressman (SC)

*“... the material needs of children ... must be
provided for.”*

From Where I Sit

About **Child Support**: Brothers, there is not a more disconcerting and consternation creating issue involved with parents who are estranged from their children than the issue of **Child Support (CS)**.

Child Support is the short hand term for the statutory (in the overwhelming majority of states) requirement that the material needs of children of estranged families must be provided for. State legislatures have made it the law that when parents' divorce or when children are born outside of wedlock, those children must be provided for by the mother and father who have decided to go their separate ways.



**The Honorable
Gregory C. Pittman,
Esq.**

**"From time to time, I
will share commentary
and thoughts, from a
legal perspective on the
issue of Fatherhood."**

**Presiding Judge
14th Circuit Court
Family Division
Muskegon County
State of Michigan**

There are some basic, general concepts that should be acknowledged at the start of our discussion:

- Every child has the right and the need to be provided for materially until they are considered to be recognized as an adult. In virtually every state that age of adulthood is considered 18 years of age.
- It is the responsibility of the two legal parents to ensure that those material needs are sufficiently met.
- When legal parents are divorced or have never married, the non-custodial parent (NCP) is usually looked to be required to contribute money, insurance coverage to the household where the child(ren) reside.
- As I have continually emphasized, parents have the right, generally, to agree to establish their own terms/agreements between themselves. Child support is certainly no different. The more parents can agree to between themselves, the less the court system is required to intervene and call the shots about what happens!!
- Neither parent has the authority to negotiate away a child's right to receive financial support from the NCP.
- Failure to provide sufficient child support, whether established by court mandated order or by stipulated agreement of the parents, is actionable in court. It is considered contempt of court to fail to pay court ordered child support. A finding of contempt can result in loss of state issued licenses and could result in being incarcerated.
- In the State of Michigan, and I would imagine most other states, CS follows the child. That means that procedurally, support payments are paid by the NCP to the caretaker of the minor child, for the benefit of the

child. Normally that means that the Custodial parent receives the payment. As an example, in situations such as a child being placed in a legal guardianship with a third person (i.e. neither parent has the legal or physical custody of the child), the support must be paid to the legal guardian. It is also appropriate in that type of situation that both parents must contribute to the support paid to the third party caretaker.

Over the next few columns, we will delve deeper into the issues raised by Child Support, as well as other perspectives on this incredibly hot-button issue. As we move forward, there is no better antidote to the difficulties that plague our families and communities in this realm, than clear, accurate information.

In Friendship, Brothers ...

“What you know, Bruh?” by Brother Rev. Oliver Williams, 5th District

Are women the only victims of domestic violence? No, men are also victims of domestic violence.

In my practice, I serve male and female offenders. Victims of domestic violence have unique needs, especially men. My intent will never imply nor minimize the hardship of any victim. My view is informed by my years of intervention and advocacy. According to a report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in four adult men in the U.S. will become a victim of domestic violence during his lifetime.¹

This article will speak to three tactics experienced by men I serve. Those are: isolation, the children or emotional attacks piled upon them.

Isolation is one of the most common forms of abuse. It is very subtle. It has an appearance of protection. However, the intent is to control. Several of the men we work with experience abuse. Then, in defense of themselves they say, *“I’m just keeping peace at home.”* Men have friends, family, and associates prior to entering into an intimate relationship. In some cases, their work community has value. Some that I counsel mourn the loss of those relationships. Too often, isolation causes relationships to suffer.

Another form of abuse reported by those I work with is using children. I had a case once; the guy was at his ex’s house to pick up the kids. He was met at the door by his ex and her family. She tells him, *“You can’t get your kids if they will be around that b!&?@/.”* In tears, he asked me, *“What can I do? I’m trying to move on with my life. We haven’t been together for 2 years. I don’t know what to do. This \$#!) ain’t right!”* I referred him to an attorney to handle the legalities of visitation. Then suggested the use of a safety plan to interact with his ex. A safety plan is a method used by victims of intimate partner abuse to create the safest interaction when there is potential contact with someone who may cause harm. In his case, he needed to implement a better drop off and pick up plan for the children.

The most volatile form of abuse is using emotional abuse. Men I support claim they are often embarrassed in front of their friends and family by comments or gestures made by their mate. Further, they suggest frequent verbal jabs with ranges from employment or income to educational status or life achievement. Sex or the lack thereof fits into this category as well. Many frustrated clients speak about this at length during visits. Emotional abuse, in my opinion, is a silent killer. It corrodes the psyche until rage or some unhealthy form of behavior becomes common place.

Today men suffer in silence. They fail to reach out due to self-pride, too much manhood, or shame. I hope this article creates an opportunity for many to reach out for help before it’s too late. Male victims of intimate partner violence exist in our society, unfortunately. As men, we must put away the vice(s) keeping us from living a healthy lifestyle. The decision is difficult but necessary. Find a way. Your next step can be your best step.



Brother Rev. Oliver Williams

***“What you know, Bruh” is designed to stimulate conversation about what often occurs but is never talked about within a context of prevention. “What you know, Bruh,” is an opinion piece that aims to promote healthy relationships and reduce senseless acts of violence toward women in our communities. “What you know, Bruh?” by Brother Reverend Oliver Williams, 5th District**

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Fatherhood and Mentoring Activity from Around the Districts:

2ND District

Omega Men Uplift Hurricane Victims in Houston

By Brother Patrick Robinson



Philadelphia, PA – Hurricane Harvey ravaged southeastern Texas. Rain flooded Houston, and people are still fleeing the rising water. The brothers of Mu Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are pitching in to help Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

On Saturday 9/2/17, the Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Mu Omega Chapter (The Philly Ques) met outside of the Acme Market of Bala Cynwyd located at 121 E City Ave. to collect Non-perishable items (primarily Toiletries: soap, shampoo, diapers, etc.).

The Chapter's Social Action Chairman, Jessie Smith, said the chapter has pledged to get involved

in the Harvey relief efforts. Brother Smith said he is working with the other local Omega Psi Phi Chapters, to actively get them involved with the relief efforts.



Local Philly Folks Helping Out

Thanks to Brother Wayne Dunn for heading this initiative for Mu Omega Chapter. All Items collected will be sent to the Brothers of Rho Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, in Houston. In addition, Mu Omega Chapter will make a monetary contribution towards Omega Psi Phi's international hurricane relief effort.

Chi Upsilon Chapter Summer Youth Camp Camden, New Jersey - July 21, 2017. Chi Upsilon Chapter team with a Black Owned and Operated Christian Camp) for a fun-filled, weekend youth activities starting on Friday, July

21 through Sunday, July 23, 2017. The location of the Camp was Cedar Knolls, Millville, NJ.

The week-long Camp at Cedar Knolls consisted of 40 youth both male and female students ages 7-17 Years. The youth camp was an experience to behold monitored and supervised by the Chi Upsilon Chapter's Brothers.

The weekend of none stop activity from morning to night got off to an excellent start on Friday with a camp fire that night and s'mores. Highlights of the Camp included fishing, swimming, miniature golf, basketball and other activity.



The Camden Campers

We were also blessed with Brother Darryl Green (Principal Consultant of Deep Forgiveness). His testimony was on "Forgiveness." It was powerful. The time spent with the young people was impactful, priceless and allowed Brothers to interact with all Campers in a positive manner. Every precaution was taken to ensure a safe and challenging weekend for the young people.

The Camp ended with Sunday morning Worship Service with our Chapter Brother bring the Word of God.

24/7 Dad Program

Montgomery County, MD, Mu Nu Chapter Brothers held the “24/7 Dad Program” in collaboration with the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) of Montgomery County on August 14, 2017.



The purpose of the event was to provide fathers with career counseling, communication training and tools to strengthen family bonds. Twelve participants were addressed during this event by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

The program discussed various topics on housing information, employment, child support arrangements, and other resources for fathers and clients so they can become more self-sufficient and strengthen their family foundation. Mu Nu Chapter made an impact on local fathers by helping men build self-awareness, self-caring, parenting skills, fathering skills, and relationship skills. (Article By:

Brother Shaun Ratliff, Mu Nu Fatherhood Committee Chairman)

3rd District

Omega University Students Participate in Event Hosted at Google, Washington D.C.



Washington, D.C.- Omega U students spent a summer day on July 13th, 2017 participating in a lab sponsored by Liberty Access for All.

Liberty Access for All, a non-profit non-partisan organization, whose mission is to increase the number of trained diverse leaders in America by providing low-cost or free educational resources including training programs, mentorships and work internships.

Through alliances and partnerships, Liberty Access for All leverage contacts to meet program goals.

FOR INFOMATION

See: omegafandm.org



The sponsored event focused on careers in data analytics, social media, and marketing with a selected panel hosted at Google HQ in Washington D.C.

The event had over 160 participants of young professionals from all over the world from grades 4th thru college. A panel spoke on data analytics, social media, marketing, and understanding the secret steps to getting a job in marketing and using social media to gain the knowledge for use of specialized skills.

7th District

Omega Undergraduate Future Dads Discussion

Atlanta, GA - Atlanta area Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Undergraduate members have answered the call and taken the mantle of leadership to educate students on the impact of absentee fathers on the family.

A panel discussion was held on Saturday, June 17, 2015 from 11am to 5pm on the campus of Georgia Tech University, in The Klaus Advance Computing Building, Lecture Auditorium.

The empowerment session included subject matter experts discussing the importance of celebrating fatherhood, decreasing premature parenting and understanding the laws that affect fathers, i.e., non-custodial and single parents.

The “free luncheon and details event” is part of the Fraternity’s Future Dads programs that engages both male and female college students to be the generation change agents through promoting fathers’ increased involvement in their children lives.

Judicial officials, attorneys, family advocates, mediators, students and parents discuss the various topics of A Father’s Value, the Right Father for Your Child, Laws that Affect Single Parents, Both Parents Matter and Non-Custodial Parent Challenges.

For more information on the Future Dads Program, please contact Brother S. Earl Wilson at undenied16@aol.com 404-219-6624.

Omega Lamplighters' Tour State Capitals

Tallahassee, FL - From the State Capital of Tennessee back home to the Sunshine State’s Capital, the Chi Omega Chapter Lamplighters have successfully completed its fourth annual 500 Miles of Freedom College and Civil Rights Tour with over 40 area youth from Tallahassee, Quincy and Wakulla.

The Omega Lamplighter program has provided fundamental training that will help these young men identify early on their life

endeavors. Florida A&M University alumnus Royle King II is the founder and Executive Director for this organization and expects nothing but the best from his youthful scholars.

“To date, all of our graduation classes have been accepted to a college/university or the military. Many of them have never seen African-American doctors, lawyers, etc.” King said. “This program provides career paths and pairs them with mentors and that alone changes their life.”



Omega Lamplighters

The annual mission for the 500 Miles of Freedom College and Civil Rights Tour is to highlight the sacrifices that were made in order for us to as a nation to have the freedoms of today. For some this is a once in a life time opportunity that ensures national exposure outside of the Tallahassee community.

This year’s trip was scheduled in the beginning of August and showcased stops in Nashville, Tennessee, Atlanta and Albany, Georgia. The students were able to witness the sights and sounds of

being on the historical campuses of Tennessee State University, Fisk University, and Meharry Medical College. They also volunteered in a community garden in Nashville helping prepare for this fall’s harvest. “We don’t just want our young men to see the sites in cities, we want them to make a difference as well.” said King.

While in Atlanta the Lamplighters visited Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse, and Spelman while experiencing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center downtown as well.

The last stop was at the historic Albany State University before coming back home to Tallahassee. Lamplighters like Brice Summerall, Jr., originally grew up in Eustis, FL before his family relocated to Tallahassee. Brice is a seventh grader at Cobb Middle School and programs like this have helped him look at Leon County as a “home away from home”.

“I come from a small town where these types of programs aren’t offered to the youth. It’s important for me because it offers me opportunities to help others and be helped by others through mentorship,” Summerall said.

While touring the many campuses on the trip Brice was excited about the opportunity of attending a Historically Black College and University in the near future.

During a time where every community could use more positive platforms for their youth, parents of the Lamplighters are overjoyed knowing that their

children have genuine role models and security without them being present.

Vardyce Gaines is the Father of a Lamplighter and has always expressed the importance of giving back to his son. "This program has made him stand out as a leader and has also helped build confidence in himself." Gaines said. "It's also important that he is learning responsibly and comradery at such an early age.

Source: Tallahassee Democrat News

8th District

Father and Son Team on a Mission to Houston

Denver, CO – Chi Phi Chapter packed extended cargo van full of water, feminine items, diapers, new clothes, toys and more made its way to Houston, Texas because a father and son combination was on a mission.

The Denver community rallied to collect donations in order to support [Lamont Shannon](#) (1976 Eta Sigma Lincoln University) and [Quincy Shannon](#) (2004 Eta Sigma) as they hit the highway on behalf of Colorado.

They updated the community via social media, which also included showing the devastation hurricane "Harvey" cause to the city of Houston. Their mission included delivering donations, assisting with clean up and meeting with clergy. Great job Brothers!!! (Submitted by Omar Montgomery)



12th District

34th Annual Computer Camp Prepares Students for Life

Tempe, AZ – The Brothers of Phi Iota Chapter, along with other members of the divine 9, participate in the 34th Annual

Komputer Kids Computer Camp in Tempe, AZ on the campus of Arizona State University.

The camp is the legacy of the former Arizona Council of Black Engineers and Scientists organization. It was started by this group of dedicated engineers, architects, educators and others to encourage, inform and educate young people to learn about engineering and science.

Over the years, hundreds of high school and some middle school students have spent the month of July learning critical thinking skills through learning computer programming language. Many of those students have gone on to pursue their education in engineering, computers and the sciences.

13th District

Brothers in the 13th District Celebrate the Joy of Fatherhood

By Brother Michael Robinson

Yongson, South Korea and Okinawa, Japan – Fathers experience great joy when seeing and holding their babies for the first time. The excitement takes them to a new level in which words cannot describe. I call this unspeakable joy.

From day one until a baby reaches adulthood dads experience a wide range of feelings and emotions. It is a life changing experience filled with love, respect and most importantly the responsibility of fatherhood. American actress Ms. Olivia Wilde has said, "the amazing thing about becoming a parent is that you will never again be your own first priority".



Brother Morris Brown and family attend baby shower hosted by the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter (Lionel Macklin, Jr., Rodney McCutcheon, Stan McQueen, Rickey Noid, Tony Simmons and Lawrence White). This event was held in Yongson, South Korea.

Two Brothers in the 13th District recently experienced this joy by welcoming newborn babies into their families. The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted a baby shower for the wife of Brother Antwon Morris.

The Morris family arrived in Seoul, South Korea days before the birth of their child. This event showed his wife and family how the Brothers of Omega truly believe in our motto “Friendship is essential to the soul” and that we are here to support them if they need us.



Brother Troy Smith, Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan holds his newborn son Idris Isaac for the first time.

Finally, Brother Troy Smith of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan and his family welcome their baby boy named Idris Isaac Smith into the world on August 16, 2017.

Brothers Morris and Smith and family members are happy and excited for their new additions.



Brothers of Lambda Xi Visit Children at Love and Hope Orphanage South Korea

Daegu, South Korea – Brothers from Lambda Xi visited the Love and Hope Orphanage in Daegu, Korea for the first time during the spring. This is one of the main orphanages in Daegu which take care of kids with disabilities.

The Brothers met the staff member on duty and was escorted to the Love room and the Hope room to visit with kids. The Love room was the area for infants to age five years old. Due to the size of the room and number of kids, the staff only allow four visitors at a time in this room.

Brothers met with the room staff and had an opportunity to play with the kids. The kids were very happy to interact with the Brothers and they all wanted to be held.

Next, the Brothers entered the Hope room which had kids’ ages 6-9 years old. This room was bigger and up to nine people were allowed to play with kids. Everyone had a wonderful time. Although the kids

and staff speak little English the Brothers were able to communicate our interest in demonstrating care and love.

See Web Site:
omegafandm.org

About This Newsletter:

The goal is: to include information from each District each quarter about their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives.

District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and at least one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to:

Brother Dr. George D. Taylor:

geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net

Deadline dates:

December 15

March 15

June 15

September 15

of each year.