



## The Toolbox

---

"The mission of Dads, Inc. is to provide support and education for fathers in order to develop healthy relationships and positive involvement in their children's lives."

June 2006

volume I, issue I

---

*Welcome to the first issue of The Toolbox, the official e-newsletter of Dads, Inc.! We have so much exciting news to share with you, and we hope that you'll help us spread the word about Dads, Inc. as we're getting our engines started! Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to all dads and anyone you think would be interested in "building better dads!"*

**HAPPY FATHERS DAY.** Yes, this Sunday, June 18, is the day we set aside to honor dear old dad. If you haven't made plans with your dad, take some time to do so. Have him over for a cookout, or go to a movie together. If he lives far away, give him a call instead of an email. Let your dad know what he's meant to you! And please, don't buy him another tie!!

**NEW WEBSITE.** The new Dads, Inc. website will debut this Sunday at noon. Our new home on the web is located at [www.dadsinc.org](http://www.dadsinc.org). The old "dads-inc" site and domain name are history, so be sure to change your settings. The new site will feature our calendar of events, the virtual version of the Fatherhood Hall of Fame (see below), the Dad of the Month, special columns on all things father, and a whole lot of other features. Be sure to check it out and let us know what you think.

**FATHERHOOD HALL OF FAME.** Have you ever wished that you could find a special way to honor your dad or husband for all the thankless hours he has put into parenting? Or do you rack your brain every year trying to find a unique gift for Father's Day, his birthday, or anniversary? Your problem is solved! You can induct him into the Fatherhood Hall of Fame. For \$25, his name & a short bio that you provide will be added to the virtual version of the Hall, listed on our website. For \$50, he will be listed in the virtual Hall and will receive a beautiful certificate suitable for framing announcing his induction. And for \$100, he will be listed in the virtual Hall, receive the induction certificate, and have his name engraved on a plaque that will hang on the Wall of Fame in the Dads, Inc. offices. For more information and an application for induction, please visit the Fatherhood Hall of Fame section of our website. Keep in mind that most of the induction fee is tax-deductible for you, too!

**WE'RE OFFICIAL.** Late last month, Dads, Inc. received our letter of determination from the IRS granting our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. This means that any charitable donation made to Dads, Inc. is tax-deductible for the donor. Any

contribution made to Dads, Inc. should be mailed to P. O. Box 19752, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

**FELTS ON BOARD.** We want to welcome our newest member of the Board of Directors, Christopher P. Felts. Chris is an Associate with Barnes & Thornburg, the law firm who provided all the work on our incorporation issues and application for tax-exempt status pro bono. Chris acted as our attorney, and found our mission close to his heart. Chris lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Paje, and their kids, Patrick (5), Madeline (5), and Jacqueline (21 months).

**A CALL TO SERVICE.** Dads, Inc. has been awarded an AmeriCorps\*VISTA program, with three available positions. This is a year-long opportunity to serve your country by working at a non-profit organization to build its capacity to serve others. In return for their service, VISTA members receive a very modest living allowance, hands-on training, unique job skills, health coverage, and an education award of almost \$5,000! If you know of a recent college graduate who is looking to get a skills edge on his or her competition, or just someone who is looking to dedicate a year to national service, send them to our website, or to [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

**BOWLING FOR DADS.** The Inaugural Bowling for Dads charity bowling tournament has been set for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Expo Bowl, located at the exit of I-465 and Emerson Ave. near Beech Grove. All proceeds from the event go back into providing programs for Central Indiana dads and kids. We're in need of individuals or foursomes to play. The registration fee is \$50 per head, or \$200 for a foursome. This is a family activity, so bring the kids. There will be prizes for the best team name and the ugliest bowling shirts, as well as a surprise guest! For more information, or to register for the event, visit our website, or call Chris Maples at (317) 506-8499.

---

**FATHER OF THE MONTH.** I would be remiss not to award the very first Dads, Inc. Father of the Month award to my own old man, my stepfather, Jearl Dixon. Stepparents, stepfathers in particular, are often and unfairly overlooked for the role they play in raising kids. When a stepparent becomes an active and involved part of the children's lives, they should be rewarded. After all, they are playing a major role they don't have to play in raising someone else's children. This is the case with Jearl. He's a little funny and a lot crazy (in a good way), but he's always been there for me when I needed him, and even when I didn't. I wouldn't be the man I am without him. Thanks, Pops!

You can nominate your favorite dad, too! If you have a deserving father or husband that you want to nominate for the Dads, Inc. Father of the Month, please email Chris Maples at [maples@dadsinc.org](mailto:maples@dadsinc.org) with his name, the reason you're nominating him, and your favorite picture of him. If he's chosen, his name, picture, and your message will be published on the Father of the Month section of our website, and this space in The Toolbox will be dedicated to him.

---