



Empowering Fathers
to Build Strong Families
and Better Communities



2023 Year in Review

The Father Center
of New Jersey



OUR MISSION
 To support men in gaining the skills needed to meet the responsibilities of fatherhood.



Dear Friends, Supporters and Community Members,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible progress and achievements made by The Father Center of New Jersey. The dedication and support from our community have been instrumental in enabling us to continue our mission of empowering fathers and strengthening families.

A Year of Growth and Impact

2023 was a remarkable year of growth for The Father Center. We expanded our programs and services with the addition of a second location in Burlington County, allowing us to reach more fathers and families than ever before. Our focus on providing comprehensive support—from job readiness training to parenting workshops—has helped fathers develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive.

Program Highlights

Job Readiness and Employment: Our Bridges2Success™ job readiness programs have seen tremendous success, with over 200 fathers securing employment. These opportunities have not only provided financial stability but have also instilled a sense of purpose and pride in the participants.

Parenting and Life Skills Workshops: We conducted over 50 workshops focused on parenting skills, financial literacy and personal development. These workshops have been pivotal in helping fathers build stronger relationships with their children and navigate the challenges of parenthood.

Healthy Relationships, Healthy Choices (HRHC): Our program was increased to include a seven-session classroom series called Making Healthy Choices for an additional 45 boys at Trenton’s Ninth Grade Academy. Students who completed the Making Healthy Choices series received immediate access to the existing HRHC network of program services.

Community Partnerships: Our collaboration with local businesses and organizations has been a cornerstone of our success. Notably, the Safe at Home program with NJM Insurance Group and Trenton Thunder has continued to thrive, providing essential resources and support to families in need.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our commitment to supporting fathers and strengthening families remains unwavering. We will continue to innovate and expand our programs to meet the evolving needs of our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and partners. Your support and belief in our mission make everything we do possible. Together, we are making a difference, one father and one family at a time.

With gratitude,

Karen Andrade-Mims
 CEO

Bryan Evans
 Board President

Father Family Fun Day & Platinum Dads 2023

A Day to Celebrate Extraordinary Men



2023 HONOREES

Ludovic Andre
Gary Jennings
Joe Festa
Tom McManimon
Steve Grumann



The Father Center of New Jersey honored five incredible men at its annual Platinum Dads awards event, held on June 3, 2023, at the Team 85 Fitness Center in Bordentown, New Jersey.

Guests and sponsors were engaged by the inspiring stories shared by these extraordinary dads. They were joined by families from across the area for a day of fun and celebration that also included a performance by the Trenton Circus Squad, pickup basketball games, video games and collaborative activities with our event partners.



SAVE THE DATE

The Statewide Fatherhood Conference
November 7, 2024
8:00 AM- 2:30 PM

DCF Training Academy
30 Van Dyke Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ

The theme of The Father Center of New Jersey's Second Statewide Fatherhood Conference will be Stronger Fathers B.U.I.L.D. Stronger Families.

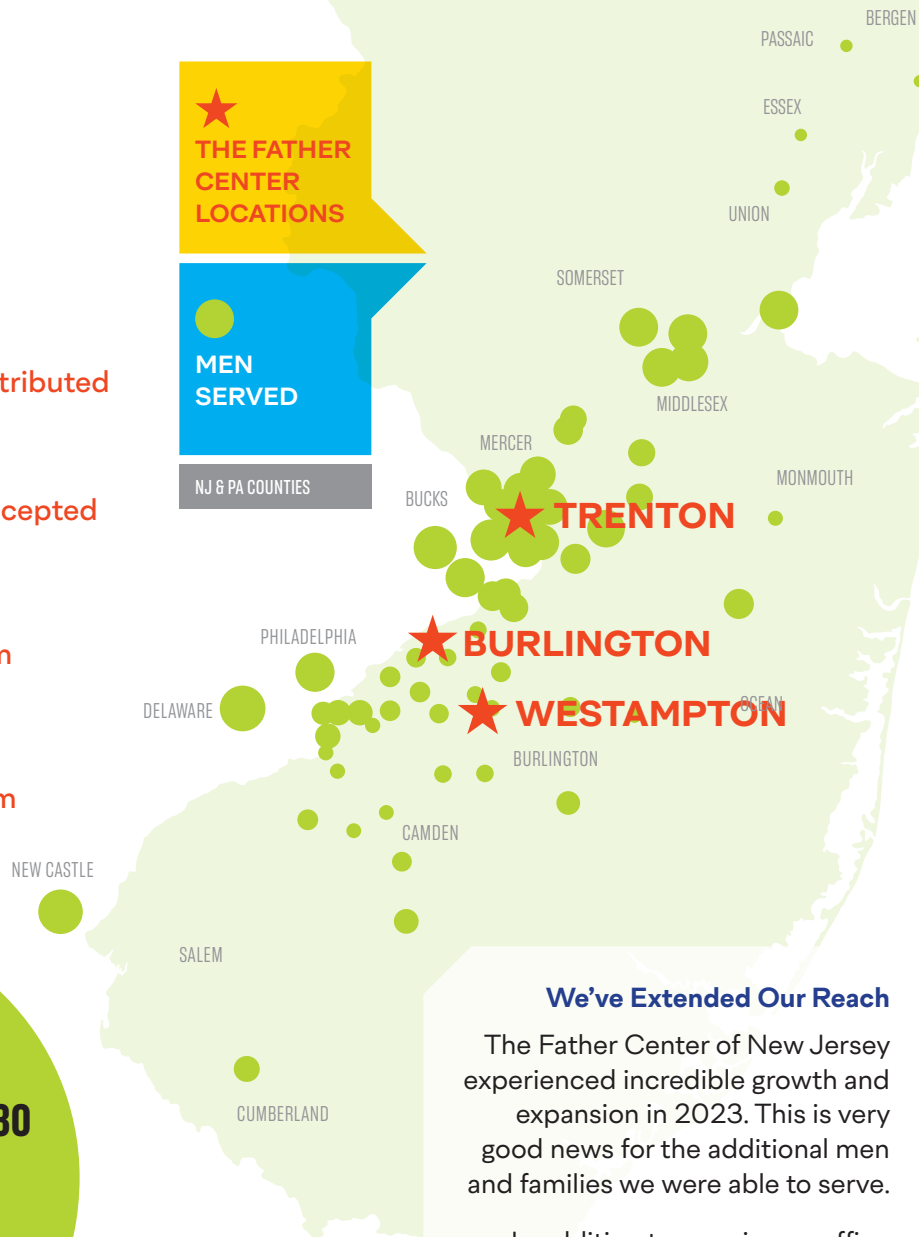
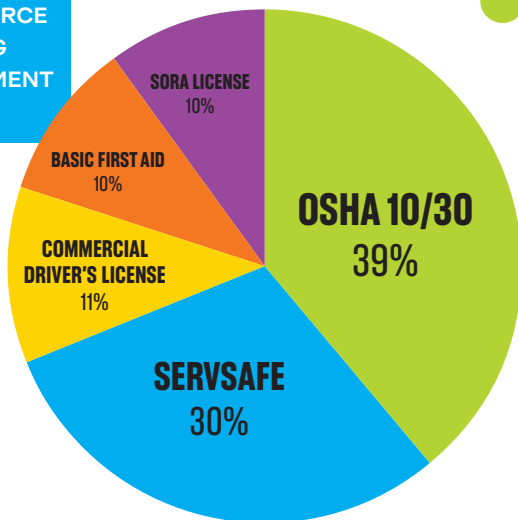
The Father Center of New Jersey established the conference to bring together organizations and individuals whose work shines a light on the important role of fathers in our families and in our communities as a whole.



By the numbers

- 454** men served
- 6** anger management class cohorts
- 3** parenting class cohorts
- 1,722** items of clothing distributed
- 70** resumes created
- 40** new jobs offered and accepted
- 10** student graduates of the Healthy Relationships, Healthy Choices program
- 25** students enrolled in the Healthy Relationships, Healthy Choices program

WORKFORCE TRAINING ENROLLMENT



We've Extended Our Reach

The Father Center of New Jersey experienced incredible growth and expansion in 2023. This is very good news for the additional men and families we were able to serve.

In addition to opening an office in Westampton, we expanded in Burlington County through our partnership with the Burlington County Board of Social Services.

A Second Chance for Perrieon Dexter

Perrieon Dexter went through some very tough times as a kid: He was raised without his father, who is now serving 55 years in prison. He was exposed to gang violence and drugs and was in and out of multiple foster homes. He also experienced homelessness, sold drugs, and survived a shooting.

“I am a survivor. I was shot three times. My mom had four kids; my father had two,” says Perrieon, who is now a father himself. “I contacted The Father Center (of New Jersey) to get parenting classes under my belt and to prove I was a stable father and a man trying to have a better life for me and my son.”

Perrieon sought OSHA-10 accreditation but wasn't able to finish due to the challenges in his life. That's when Randall E. Toby, Program Manager, Community Outreach, offered him another opportunity: enrollment in school to earn a Commercial Driver's License.

It was during that time that he was shot three times protecting a family member from domestic violence, and was retaliated against. “I needed two stomach surgeries, and that knocked me out of work and school. I had car troubles. I was homeless without much family support, and facing multiple court challenges, as well as obstacles with multiple injuries after being shot. I had a long rehabilitation and was fired and let go from my job, and wanted to return to CDL school to finish before I lost the ability to complete it. I had to complete school not fully healed and struggled hard. But I knew I had to do something different to get where I needed in life.”

“It was a change from being in the street. I have lost multiple friends and family to gun violence, health issues, failed relationships and struggles with my mental health. The Father Center of New Jersey gave me and my son a chance to change our lives.”

After graduating from CDL school at Smith and Solomon in Bordentown, New Jersey, he began driving as a profession. He aspires to help others and encourages men facing challenges to reach out to The Father Center of New Jersey and to “take it seriously.”

“I have been working in my field and talking to the youth about things I have faced and overcome, the trials and tribulations and how to remain positive through adversity and become a better person. I am still an active father in my son's life. Even though I still face multiple challenges, I remain as strong as I can, knowing where I came from.

“I thank The Father Center of New Jersey for giving me a chance to better myself with job training and career opportunities. Thank you, Ms. Dorita White and definitely Mr. Randall E. Toby.”

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Your donation supports men in gaining the skills needed to meet the responsibilities of fatherhood.

To learn more about our work or make a donation, go to **TheFatherCenter.org**.

