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Governor McMaster Proclaims June 2022 as Fathers Matter Month and Awards Retiring President, Pat Littlejohn, with Order of the Palmetto

Columbia, S.C. [June 1, 2022] – The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (the Center) was issued a proclamation on June 1, 2022, by Governor Henry McMaster stating that June of 2022 will be known as Fathers Matter Month, in recognition of the 20-year impact of the Center with fatherhood initiatives and advocacy in the state of South Carolina. Throughout the past 20 years, the Center has served more than 25,000 fathers and impacted more than 56,000 children.

Retiring president for the organization, Pat Littlejohn, also officially released the [20-Year Impact Report](#), a document that encompasses the Center’s history, partnerships, initiatives, and impact throughout the state from its inception in 2002.

“The Impact Report chronicles the Center’s labor of love and brings to the life the passion for fathers that we have,” said Littlejohn. She goes on to challenge the Center and stakeholders, staff and community to keep working for change. “I cannot go without saying that our work here is not done. We will continue to be the voice for fathers. Although we paused to celebrate today, this is also a challenge to keep going with a fierce and renewed dedication to fathers. We will not stop till every child experiences a loving and engaged father and every community is vibrant because the families are stronger. We want every South Carolinian to be proud that their state leads the nation in supporting fathers and families “

As a surprise addition to the official release of the [Impact Report](#), Governor McMaster also presented Littlejohn with the Order of the Palmetto, which is the State of South Carolina’s highest civilian honor presented in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service and contributions on a national or statewide scale.

“The Order of the Palmetto is a fitting award to be bestowed upon someone like Pat, who has devoted the past two decades of her life to improving the lives of fathers and families across our state, “ said Warren Bolton, the Center’s Board Chairman. “There has been no more fierce an advocate and cheerleader for men to fight through the challenges of life and become the champions their families need than Pat Littlejohn. Pat’s legacy will live on through the young boys and girls who have been positively impacted by fathers guided and supported by the Center and the local programs.”

About the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Its mission is based on the conviction that children thrive when an engaged, responsible father is active in their lives. In South Carolina, many children live in a father-absent home, and the consequences are dire. To address this problem, The Center supports six regional fatherhood organizations with 14 locations providing services to every county of the state while promoting father-friendly policies and practices and helping to erase society's negative stereotypes of non-custodial, low-income dads.

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