



**FATHERHOOD  
IMPACT REPORT  
2022**



SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER  
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

# ELEVATING FATHERHOOD

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am honored to build on the foundation of those who spearheaded this movement over the last two decades. They made tremendous strides in building consensus, raising awareness and gathering resources to empower fathers to support their families and improve their communities.

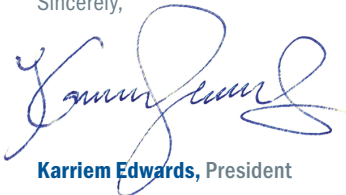
In this post Covid-19 era fathers and families are facing additional challenges. Many of our families are recovering from the loss of earnings, as well as physical and emotional health issues, while children are dealing with learning loss and the trauma from prolonged social isolation. I can see that impact in my own daughter.

Families and companies need our dads more than ever. There are 408,000 South Carolina children living in single-parent households. Nationally, 80% of single-parent households are headed by women. The increasing cost of living makes the burden on single mothers heavier. Ironically, employers are moving to this state and adding jobs on a regular basis. The abundance of well-paying jobs around the state are a source of great opportunities for our dads. Connecting them with rewarding and fulfilling careers enables them to support their families at this critical time.

We have a board, team and coalition of organizations that are unified by a commitment to providing dads the resources needed to protect and provide for their families.

Over the next year, we will focus on increasing our effectiveness by executing a comprehensive training program. We will also develop and strengthen alliances and partnerships that enrich a father's life by providing access to employment, education, training and services they need to make sure it's a Happy Fathers' Day – every day in their families.

Sincerely,



**Karriem Edwards**, President  
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



When I reflect on the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families' efforts to help men become great dads who nurture and strengthen their families, one word comes to mind: transformational. Each time a father turns his fortunes around and those of his children, he has the power to help transform not just his family but the surrounding community.

Here's what that transformational work looks like: local fatherhood programs, supported by the work and advocacy of the Center, working day after day to instruct and uplift fathers. The programs challenge men to focus on responsible fatherhood, job readiness and retention, soft-skills training, managing child-support obligations, financial management, parenting/co-parenting, healthy relationships, anger management and more.

This amazing work has been ongoing for 20-plus years. In that time, more than 25,000 men have received instruction aimed at helping them become better dads.

Reducing fatherhood absence and increasing their engagement with their children helps combat so many ills that cause children and families to struggle. When fathers are absent, children are more likely to become young parents, dropouts, juvenile delinquents and grow up in poverty. But when Dad is present, the result is healthy children, healthy families, and healthy communities.

The year 2022 was a year of continued service and commitment to strengthening the lives of fathers. Of course, it was not without challenges, such as the many restraints caused by COVID-19. Still, the Center was able to carry out its God-guided ministry and meet the needs of many fathers. Many thanks to our dedicated board, staff, valued donors, partners and supporters.

Last year also brought a transition in leadership. The Center's long-time president, Pat Littlejohn, who led the fatherhood effort in excellence, retired. In came Karriem Edwards, who has brought great energy, passion, strategic thinking and an infectious outlook to the Center. His focus is to make every day a Happy Fathers' Day – for the dads, the children and the families we serve.

It has indeed been an honor to serve as board chair for the Center, South Carolina's longest-running and most-respected fatherhood organization, which serves as a statewide and national model for successful fatherhood programs. I remain impressed by the great work being done to help the fathers and families of our state. And I'm convinced even greater work is to come.

Sincerely,



**Warren Bolton**, Board Chair  
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

# 2022 FATHER *IMPACT*



**665**

Participated in parent-child activities



Children Positively Impacted

**3,054**

**\$558,484**

Child Support paid by participants



**\$1,843,200**

Saved in incarceration cost through Jobs Not Jail



**66**

Unemployed completed Job Boot Camp



**54**

Unemployed completed Job Boot Camp and gained employment



**277**

Unemployed participants gained employment



Average increase in monthly income after employment

**\$836**

**748**

Number of health services provided by nurse practitioner



**118**

Number of participants receiving health services



# FATHER STORY

## RODERICK JACKSON

From a welding worker on child support to an involved father and successful entrepreneur, Roderick Jackson was a 32-year-old father from Florence, South Carolina with no vision or guidance in getting help for himself or his family. This is the story of how he overcame child support, employment, and physical difficulties to become a better dad.

Roderick's story starts in 2017 when he had just been released from jail for failure to pay child support. At the time, he had four young daughters to support. He knew that the mother had filed for child support, but he continued to attend court hearings and do his best to provide for his family. However, he was struggling and didn't know where to turn for help. While attending a court hearing, Roderick crossed paths with Mr. Lightfoot, an intervention specialist with Man2Man who inspired him to give the Fatherhood program a try.

Over the next six months, Roderick attended every session, even when it was difficult to find a babysitter for his baby girl, Corlisayana. He brought her with him to group events, and the other fathers quickly fell in love with her. Roderick's reliability and involvement at the sessions and events did not go unnoticed by the staff. Despite his busy schedule, Roderick always made time to attend the sessions and be present with the other dads.

*Roderick Jackson with his children Ayiyana Jackson and Roderick Jackson Jr.*

Roderick had a way of giving valuable advice and input that really helped the other fathers stay motivated in the program.

**“Once I came, I liked it! It was kind of a good thing to have a lot of people to sit around and do that and hear each other's struggles. Some of us were the same. Some were a lot different. Makes you look at things differently.”**

Roderick had come a long way since starting the Man2Man program. Completing the program was a huge milestone for him, but it was just the beginning of his journey toward a better life. With a polished resume in hand, Roderick was able to secure a job in the welding industry thanks to Man2Man. It took several jobs placements for Roderick to find the right fit, but the fatherhood staff continued to help him navigate the challenges of his new job and provided support as he worked to build a stable life for himself and his family. Things were starting to look up for Roderick. His child support payments were on track, he had stable housing, and he was able to be an active presence in his children's lives. He even had time to indulge in his favorite hobbies, riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes in his spare time. During the holiday season of 2017, Roderick got

into a car accident, almost losing his leg. While he didn't initially realize the severity of his injury, he would have to undergo various levels of physical therapy and rehabilitation. Recovering from this injury would take some time but Roderick was determined to do whatever it took to get back to supporting his family. After several weeks, the therapist reported that he was fully recovered. Roderick's persistence to get back out and active was strong.

Through it all, Roderick remained focused on his goal: to be a better father for his growing family of seven children. He used the communication skills he learned in the program to build a stronger relationship with his third oldest daughter, who he hadn't seen since she was a toddler. Roderick used his new skills to be an active and involved parent to his other six children, spending time with them and showing them the love and support they needed to thrive. He even led a Man2Man “New Fathers” workshop for fathers in the community who were becoming new fathers or had newborns.

Today, Roderick Jackson, age 38, has transformed his life with the help of Man2Man's fatherhood program. He is now a devoted father to seven children, a successful entrepreneur and a strong advocate for fatherhood. Even after completing the program, he remains connected to the organization and its staff, seeking guidance, and offering mentorship to new program participants. Roderick's journey is a testament to the positive impact that fatherhood programs can have on the lives of individuals and their families.



# FATHERHOOD CURRICULUM

We create resources and tools that help men understand what responsible fatherhood means and how to achieve it. We support a statewide network of fatherhood organizations that are collectively bettering the lives of fathers, families and communities across South Carolina.



**Healthy relationships**



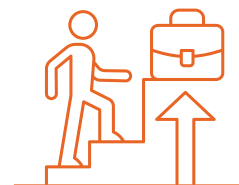
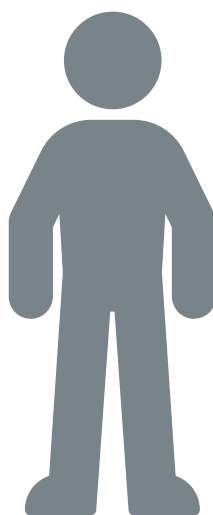
**Parenting**



**Economic mobility**



**Healthy Fathers  
Healthy Families**



**Employment  
Boot Camp**



**Housing 2 Home  
Ownership**



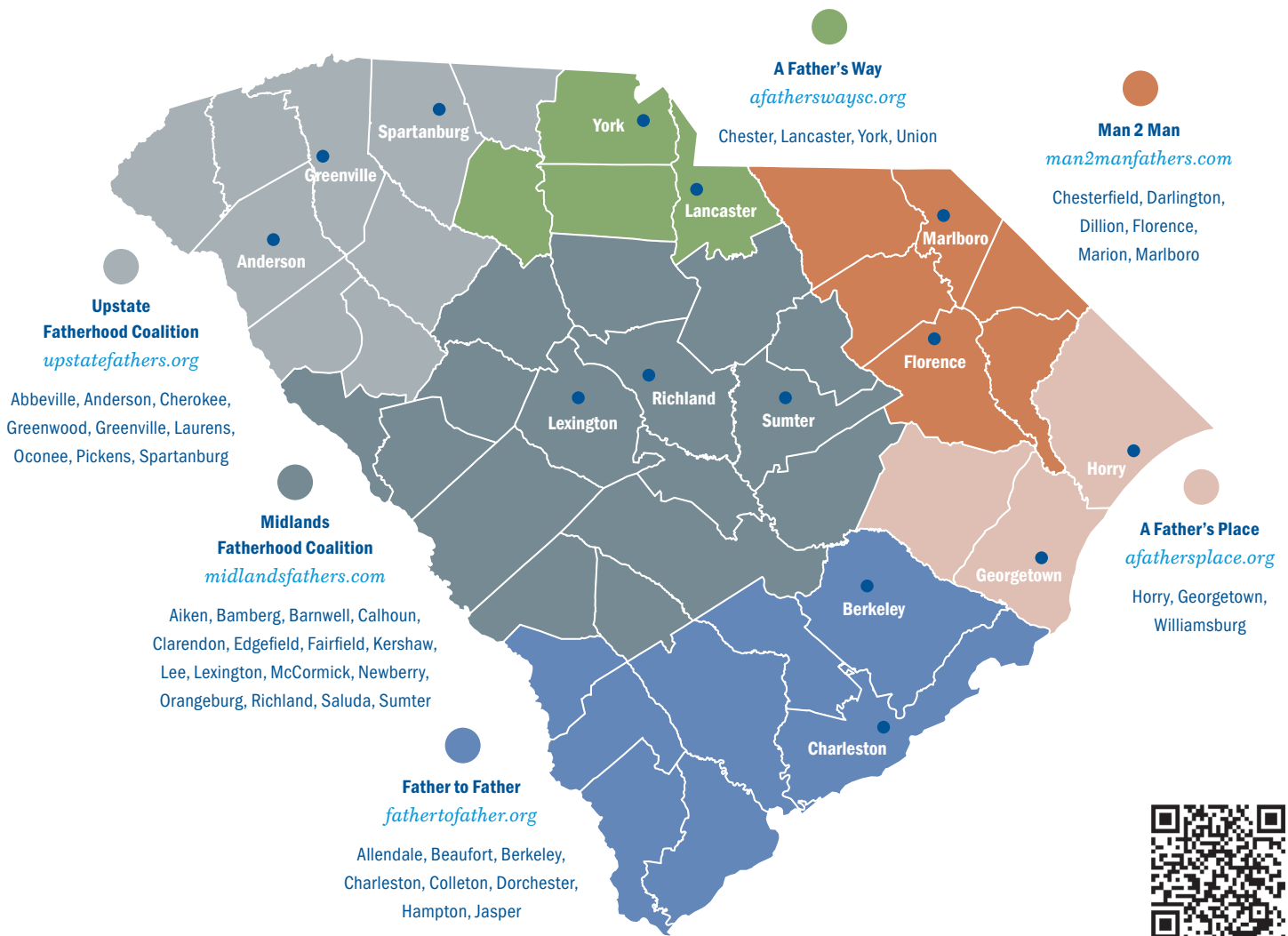
**REALITY  
CHECK**

## WHY REALITY CHECK?

Reality Check is an innovative curriculum designed for young men as they transition into adulthood, providing a supportive environment for open dialogue on important topics like fatherhood, career development, networking, and financial literacy. It fills a gap in resources for responsible decision-making that few programs address, particularly in the face of challenges rooted in father absence. Through Reality Check, young men are empowered to make responsible decisions and improve their future.

# A statewide network of fatherhood programs and services

We are a voice for fatherhood and a champion for father-friendly policies that remove obstacles and create opportunities. Our work serves as a model for fatherhood initiatives nationwide.



## Impact families through Fathers

Our fatherhood programs help men become the responsible, engaged fathers they want to be for their children. With your continued support, we can make a difference in the lives of fathers and families in our state.

Scan QR code and donate today.



SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System

2711 MIDDLEBURG DRIVE, SUITE 111 COLUMBIA, SC 29204

*scfathersandfamilies.com*