



MENTORING MOMENT: MENTORING A FATHERLESS GENERATION

Last week I had the privilege of speaking to our local Rotary Club on the topic of “The Power of Philanthropy to a Fatherless Generation.” I quoted the statistic from John Sowers book, *Fatherless Generation*, that today “in the US alone, just over 33% of youth – over 25 million kids – are fatherless and searching for Dad.” Here is how Sowers captures the significance and pathos behind that statistic:

Fatherlessness creates an appetite in the soul that demands fulfillment. Over time, the unmet needs created by Dad’s absence turn into something that Robert McGee calls “father hunger.” And in America alone, millions are starving to death... To live with father hunger is to live with the sadness of what will never be. Perhaps the worst thing about this rejection is living with the knowledge that someone has chosen to turn his back on you. Someone has chosen to leave you. Someone has determined your value and decided you are not worth having around – or that he would be better off someplace else, without you.

Sowers contends that “the fatherless generation is accountable for most of the serious social problems we face today. “ Would you be surprised to learn that...

- 63% of youth suicides are children from fatherless homes
- 71% of pregnant teenagers are girls from fatherless homes
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children ...
- 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions...
- 85% of all youth who exhibit behavior disorders are children from fatherless homes
- 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger grew up in fatherless homes
- 71% of all high school dropouts...
- 75% of all adolescents in chemical abuse centers...
- 85% of all youth sitting in prisons... are products of homes without fathers.

Mentoring can never take the place of a caring and engaged parent. What mentors can do is help fill the gap that exists in the life of young people growing up without a dad or without a mom. As ISF mentors, our role is desperately needed in a fatherless generation!

Dr. Blair Ritchey is Executive Director of ISF, a non-profit foundation dedicated to providing scholarships, mentoring and leadership development for young people who have aged out of orphan or foster care, as they pursue their dream of a college education and a successful life. Mentoring Moment is a weekly message of encouragement and inspiration to those committed to the mentoring process. If you prefer NOT to receive Mentoring Moment, simply reply to this email.



Dr. Blair A. Ritchey, Executive Director

ISF / 15660 N. Dallas Pkwy, Suite 700 / Dallas, TX 75248
214-769-4078 (cell) / www.isfsite.org

