

Hancock County Head Start Million Men School Day



The Million Men School Day is an opportunity for men to show their commitment to the educational lives of their children throughout the school year. This is a national initiative that was created by the Black Star Project that begun in 2004, fathers and other significant male caregivers across the country and around the world has been asked to participate in their child's education. This day is the beginning of a year-long commitment of men to their children's educational success.

Hancock County Early Head Start/ Head Start & Pre-K celebrated this national initiative on September 19, 2016 which was spearheaded by the Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator, Gary Hill and the Family Service Advocates. All the fathers were called to action and answered the call. Approximately 30 fathers and male caregivers brought their children to school and attended the program that discussed the value of male involvement, the importance of the father in the family structure, and education.

Gary Hill, Family Service Advocate/ Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator opened the program with a welcome and explained the purpose of the Hancock County Fatherhood Initiative. Mr. Hill gave a motivational speech to the males which included tips on how to be a better father, how to be helpful with their child's learning and growth, and the importance of being involved in their child's life. Mr. Hill incorporated male bonding by the fathers playing competition games and engaged in a networking activities. After the connections were made, Mrs. Marilyn Hood, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Ivey of Hancock State Prison discussed their partnership with Hancock County EHS/ HS & Pre-K and their need to provide a service to the community and recruiting men for viable employment. Several gentleman showed interest and discussed with the gentleman

next steps for employment. Terrell Reid of Community in Schools discussed the imperative need for parental involvement in the school district and the overall effect of how the father's involvement has on the improvement the academic performance of children.

Guest speaker for the event, Anthony Pittman, Pastor of Sun Hill Baptist Church in Cadwell, Georgia gave a dynamic presentation that discussed the importance of a father in a child's life and role of the male in the home. Pastor Pittman provided indebt knowledge and wisdom on how to be a strong man who demonstrates love, compassion, integrity, honesty, respectfulness, and full of life. LET'S BREAK THE TREND! BE AN EXAMPLE TO OUR CHILDREN! After the presentations several men spoke with the presenters and wanted more information on how to equip themselves to be better fathers and what could they do to assist at Early Head Start/Head Start/Pre-K. Later, the fathers had a chat and chew session facilitated by Gary Hill and lunch was donated by Domino Pizza of Milledgeville. The program ended with Sheriff Primus, who gave closing remarks that charged every father/ grandfather/ male caregiver to take a stand in their home and community. Special thanks to Anthony Pittman, Pastor of Sun Hill Baptist Church, Terrell Reid, Communities in Schools, Sheriff Tomyln T. Primus, Hancock County Sheriff, Mr. Williams, Hancock State Prison, Mr. Ivey, Hancock State Prison, Mrs. Marilyn Hood, Hancock State Prison, and most of all the fathers/grandfathers/ male figures of the children of the Hancock County Early Head Start/ Head Start & Pre-K program. "I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection."- Sigmund Freud.