

**Date:** June 6, 2016  
**Release Date:** For immediate release      **End Date:** June 10, 2016  
**Contact Person:** Dawn Scharer, Healthy Start / WIC Supervisor  
**Phone:** (810) 237-4607  
**RE:** Flint Fatherhood Conference at Riverside Tabernacle

There are very few organizations and initiatives in the community that focus on fathers. The Genesee County Health Department and other agency partners have launched a fatherhood initiative, led by men from the community, which focuses on assisting fathers with building skills that help them to be better dads. If fathers are involved with their children, they tend to have higher IQ's, perform better in school, and have improved communication skills. Additionally, these children are more emotionally secure and are prepared for higher education and the workforce.

Genesee Healthy Start, Genesee County Health Department, Friend of the Court, Involved Dads, Michigan Fatherhood Coalition, GISD Head Start, Genesee County Community Action Agency, Child Care Network, and a variety of other community agencies will host the first annual and free, Flint Fatherhood Conference on Friday, June 10, 2016 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Riverside Tabernacle. All men are welcome to attend the conference, as all men in the community can and do serve in various roles that are critical in the lives of children.

This year's theme is Fathers Raising Flint: Strengthening our Families. The goal of this conference is to "increase positive child outcomes by providing the needed information and resources to men in the community while allowing them to come together with other men to share their experiences and offer social support and encouragement to one another.

We also hope this will be a gateway to all the other services in the area that are available to men in order to break down some of the barriers they may face that discourages paternal involvement," stated Porsha Black, Health Education Coordinator, Healthy Start.

The conference will serve breakfast and lunch, and offer limited day care. Riverside Tabernacle is located at 429 Chavez Drive, Flint. For more information, please contact: Shon Hart at 313.757.1388, [involveddad2015@gmail.com](mailto:involveddad2015@gmail.com); Pam Jaymes at 734.323.9037, [pjaymes@spectrumhuman.org](mailto:pjaymes@spectrumhuman.org); or Mike Kildee at [mkildee@geneseeisd.org](mailto:mkildee@geneseeisd.org).

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