



Date With Dad Program

A Family Reunification Initiative

Presented by Girls For A Change

www.girlsforachange.org
info@girlsforachange.org
804-405-2827



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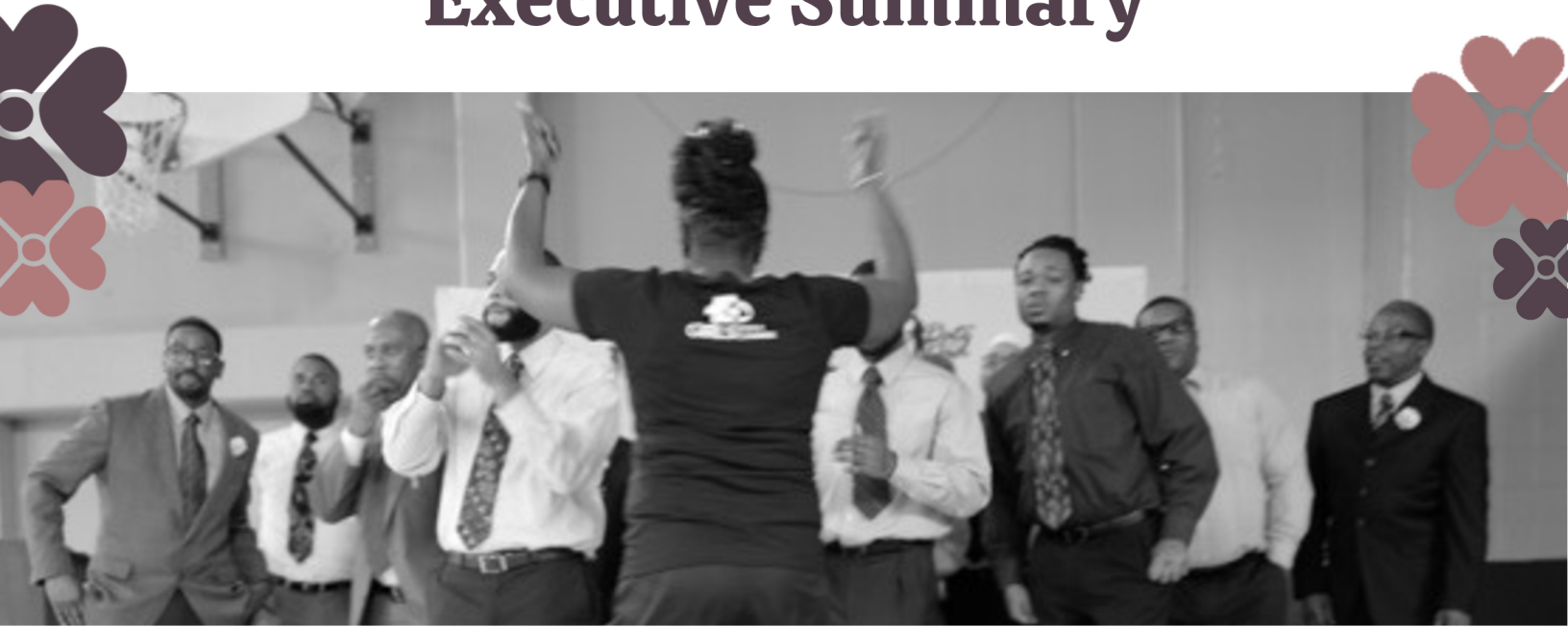
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Executive Summary



Date With Dad was launched in Richmond, Virginia, in 2009. It is the first father-daughter initiative of its kind for incarcerated fathers and their daughters. The program culminates in a formal dance that celebrates and strengthens the father-daughter bond, while actively supporting family reunification during incarceration, through release, and beyond.

This summary outlines the benefits and potential implementation of the Date With Dad Program within correctional facilities. The program aligns with the core goals of family reunification by fostering emotional connection, supporting rehabilitation, improving mental health, and enhancing institutional safety. Research consistently shows that incarcerated fathers who maintain strong family ties are more likely to follow rules and less likely to reoffend upon release.



More than a one-time event, Date With Dad is a long-term commitment to family healing, policy reform, and systems change. Informed by family feedback, the program advocates for improvements in visitation processes and institutional practices. We pursue authentic partnerships that honor Girls For A Change's original vision and prioritize real, sustained support for families, not performative programming.

We aim to collaborate with correctional institutions to implement a proven model that builds family resilience, promotes accountability, and increases the likelihood of successful reentry, ultimately benefiting individuals, families, and communities alike.

The Need for Family Reunification Initiatives



Correctional facilities have a unique opportunity to foster safer environments, support rehabilitation, and improve reentry outcomes by implementing family reunification initiatives. These programs not only enhance facility safety by reducing behavioral issues and disciplinary infractions, but also play a crucial role in lowering recidivism rates by strengthening the support systems incarcerated individuals rely on upon release. For children of incarcerated parents—who face heightened risks of emotional distress, academic challenges, and future justice system involvement—maintaining strong family connections provides stability, resilience, and a sense of belonging. At the community level, investing in family reunification contributes to long-term public safety by breaking cycles of intergenerational incarceration and promoting successful reintegration. As correctional institutions increasingly shift toward evidence-based rehabilitation strategies, prioritizing family engagement emerges as a cost-effective, high-impact solution that benefits not only incarcerated individuals but also their families and society as a whole.



The Need for Family Reunification Initiatives

Addressing Facility Safety and Rehabilitation

Incarceration is often accompanied by emotional distress, depression, and anxiety, which contribute to behavioral issues within correctional facilities. Research demonstrates that family engagement programs reduce stress, improve emotional regulation, and promote positive behavior among incarcerated individuals. By maintaining connections with their loved ones, residents experience a renewed sense of purpose and hope, making them more likely to engage in educational, vocational, and therapeutic programming. This not only enhances rehabilitation efforts but also contributes to a safer correctional environment by reducing conflicts and disciplinary infractions.

Reducing Recidivism Through Family Support

One of the strongest predictors of post-incarceration success is the presence of a reliable support system. Studies show that incarcerated individuals who maintain strong family ties are less likely to return to prison. Family members provide emotional stability, guidance, and accountability, which are essential for reintegration into society. Programs that facilitate parent-child connections also encourage incarcerated individuals to develop a sense of responsibility and motivation for change, decreasing the likelihood of reoffending and easing the transition back into their communities.

Breaking the Generational Cycle of Incarceration

Parental incarceration has far-reaching consequences, particularly for children, who are significantly more likely to experience emotional distress, academic struggles, and justice system involvement themselves. Studies show that children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to become justice-involved, perpetuating a cycle of incarceration that spans generations. Girls, in particular, often experience identity struggles, abandonment issues, and difficulty forming healthy relationships, which can impact their emotional well-being into adulthood. The absence of a parent—especially a father—creates instability in a child's life, increasing their risk of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that contribute to long-term trauma and negative outcomes.

Family reunification initiatives provide a crucial intervention by fostering healthy parent-child relationships, improving communication, and reinforcing emotional support systems. Programs that facilitate structured, meaningful engagement between incarcerated parents and their children help mitigate the effects of separation, strengthen family bonds, and encourage incarcerated individuals to invest in their rehabilitation. By prioritizing these connections, correctional facilities not only support the well-being of incarcerated individuals and their children but also create a pathway for long-term community stability and reduced recidivism. Investing in family engagement is an investment in breaking the cycle of incarceration and building stronger, more resilient families for future generations.

The Need for Family Reunification Initiatives

The Power of Father-Daughter Relationships

A growing body of research highlights the significant benefits of maintaining father-daughter relationships during incarceration. Programs like Date with Dad provide structured opportunities for fathers to connect with their daughters, fostering emotional healing, trust-building, and positive communication skills. When fathers engage meaningfully in their children's lives—even from within correctional facilities—their daughters experience:

- Higher self-esteem and a stronger sense of identity
- Better emotional regulation and resilience
- Improved academic engagement and reduced behavioral challenges

For incarcerated fathers, these interactions reinforce their sense of responsibility and purpose, motivating them to actively participate in rehabilitative efforts and reduce their likelihood of reoffending.

"Being part of Date With Dad gave me hope. It reminded me why I need to turn my life around—not just for me, but for my daughter."

– Former Participant

"My dad and I never had this kind of time before. Now, I know he cares, and I can't wait to see him again."

– Daughter Participant



A Cost-Effective, High-Impact Solution

Family reunification initiatives offer a cost-effective, high-impact strategy for correctional facilities, supporting goals related to rehabilitation, reentry preparation, and long-term public safety. By prioritizing family-centered approaches, correctional institutions align with state and federal efforts to reduce recidivism, enhance facility management, and improve community reintegration outcomes. Additionally, by partnering with community organizations, facilities can leverage external resources to minimize financial strain while maximizing program effectiveness.

Investing in family reunification initiatives is not just an enhancement to correctional programming—it is a necessary intervention that strengthens families, reduces recidivism, and contributes to long-term community stability. By implementing programs like Date with Dad, correctional facilities create an environment that fosters rehabilitation, promotes positive behavior, and breaks cycles of intergenerational incarceration. Strengthening family bonds must be a core component of any evidence-based criminal justice reform strategy, ensuring that incarcerated individuals and their families have the support they need to build brighter futures.

About Girls For A Change



Organizational Overview

Girls For A Change (GFAC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth development organization aimed at empowering Black girls to visualize their bright futures and potential through discovery, development, innovation, and social change in their communities.

Our mission

*To prepare Black girls for the world
and the world for Black girls.*

For over 20 years, GFAC's targeted programs have addressed issues critical to Black girls' success and vitality, including leadership skills, goal-planning, financial literacy, network building, community engagement, tech literacy, sisterhood building, and socio-emotional learning. Our programs are co-designed with Black girls to ensure their voices are elevated and celebrated, teaching participants to understand the world they live in, to advocate for their rights, and to exercise agency over their lives through creative platforms. We focus on the development of Black girls as leaders and changemakers, training them to overcome institutional racism, sexism, the digital divide, and the concrete ceiling unique to the Black female lived experience.

About Girls For A Change

The History of Date With Dad

The inception of the father-daughter dance came from a GFAC social project in 2007. After engaging Camp Diva Leadership Academy participants in discussion around an issue they felt passionate about, they chose to focus on developing stronger relationships with their fathers. The inaugural Date With Dad Weekend was a community-wide Daddy Daughter Dance where girls and their fathers were invited for dinner, dancing, comedy, and fun activities. Unfortunately, some of the girls in the program felt left out of the experience because their fathers were incarcerated. One participant suggested bringing the dance into the jail, ensuring that all girls, regardless of their fathers' circumstances, could share this special experience.



The Birth of a Movement: The First Date With Dad Program

Embracing the vision of strengthening father-daughter relationships, participants took a bold step—they wrote to former Richmond Sheriff C.T. Woody, seeking permission to host a father-daughter dance within the Richmond Justice Center walls. Recognizing the potential positive impact on both incarcerated fathers and their daughters, the Sheriff agreed to the request.

To participate, fathers were required to complete a 30-hour parenting class, equipping them with the tools to communicate, connect, and rebuild relationships with their daughters.

In a groundbreaking decision, Sheriff C.T. Woody Jr. became the first sheriff in the nation to say "yes" and host not only the first Father-Daughter Dance inside a correctional facility but also the full-length "Date With Dad" program—a historic first in the U.S.

The first-ever dance took place with 16 incarcerated fathers and 18 daughters, marking a powerful moment in history. This initiative provided more than just a memorable experience—it demonstrated the power of family connection, showing that even in the most challenging circumstances, healing and transformation are possible.

This moment in history became the foundation for a movement, proving that love, support, and second chances can break cycles and create lasting change.

Watch the TED Talk



'Dance can have a ripple effect'

Historically, father-daughter dances have been used to help American families reunite. They became widespread in the U.S. after WWII as a way to reintegrate men into family life.

"People may think it's crazy to have this in a jail, but it builds respect. You wouldn't believe what it does for these men's confidence to dress them up. So this dance can have a ripple effect."

- Former Richmond City Sheriff C.T. Woody

About Girls For A Change

Date With Dad Program Successes



For over a decade (excluding years affected by the COVID-19 pandemic), Girls For A Change has successfully implemented the Date With Dad Program in correctional facilities across the United States.

The national success of this initiative led to its story being featured in the critically acclaimed documentary *Daughters*, co-directed by Angela Patton. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, received multiple awards, and is now available on Netflix, further amplifying the conversation around incarceration, fatherhood, and second chances.

Key Achievements

- 95% reduction in recidivism rates among participating fathers.
- Program expansion, reaching more facilities and scaling impact nationwide.
- Introduction of aftercare services to support both fathers and daughters beyond incarceration.
- Increased partnerships with organizations focused on reentry, education, and mental health.
- Establishment of an education fund to provide participants with greater opportunities for academic and career growth.
- More direct services for participants impacted by paternal incarceration, ensuring ongoing emotional and developmental support.
- Free mental health counseling for participants in the program.
- Reform in visitation policies to allow for more meaningful and rehabilitative father-daughter interactions.
- Impact screenings of *Daughters* used as an awareness tool to advocate for criminal justice reform and highlight the importance of family connections in rehabilitation.

About Girls For A Change

Program Leaders



Angela Patton is the CEO of Girls For A Change, a Richmond, Virginia-based nonprofit with a bold mission: to prepare Black girls for the world and the world for Black girls. For over 25 years, Angela has led the charge for systemic and cultural change on a national level, known for her fearless leadership and innovative approaches to advancing opportunities for Black girls.

Her impact is widely recognized. Angela's TED Talk has garnered over one million views, and her co-authored book, *Finding Her Voice*, has empowered thousands of Black girls to navigate and thrive in diverse environments. She is also the co-director of *Daughters*, a powerful documentary that premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, winning both Festival Favorite and Audience Favorite: U.S. Documentary awards. Since its release on Netflix, *Daughters* has received a Peabody Award and was nominated for two Emmys in 2025.

Angela is a seasoned speaker, community activist, and unapologetic advocate for centering Black girls' voices. Her work is rooted in the belief that when we listen to Black girls—and take action on their ideas—we move closer to a more just and beautiful world.



Chad M. Morris is a certified Fatherhood and Family Life Coach, speaker, and facilitator dedicated to helping individuals unlock their potential and build strong families. With 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, family strengthening, and community-based mental health services, he has forged impactful partnerships with organizations like the Richmond Justice Center, the Virginia Department of Social Services, and Be Strong Families. As the Community Impact Liaison for Girls For A Change and a Fatherhood Coach, Chad supports men in healing, building, and strengthening connections with their children. He played a key role in the *Daughters* documentary as the fatherhood coach through the Date With Dad Program experience.

An NPCL Certified Master Trainer and Legacy Mentor, Chad champions positive parenting through his "Team Child" approach and leads The Proving Grounds, a program fostering success and wellness. His mission is clear: empower fathers, strengthen families, and transform communities.

About Girls For A Change

Program Leaders



Alexandra James is a seasoned leader with over 20 years of experience in government and nonprofit sectors, specializing in program management, partnership development, and strategic planning. She is a dedicated advocate for racial equity, family stabilization, and community resilience, with a strong focus on food justice, climate justice, and co-parenting initiatives. As CEO of Trinity Family Life Center, she designed and secured over \$750,000 for the Strengthening Families, Uplifting Communities project with Casey Family Programs. She has held key roles, including Regional Manager for Fairfax County, Deputy Director at Groundwork RVA, and Chief Program Officer at Be Strong Families, where she managed multi-million-dollar budgets and national training programs. Alexandra has been instrumental in fatherhood and motherhood initiatives, co-creating the Motherhood & Co-Parenting Initiative and partnering with Richmond and Chesterfield jails, Girls For A Change, and Henrico Social Services. A Howard University alumna with a Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University, she is committed to equity, social impact, and transformative community partnerships.



Coach Nickey McMullen is a dynamic, high-energy advocate, educator, and performing artist who brings passion, movement, and music into everything she does. At Girls For A Change, she works closely with youth and their families, ensuring that play, love, sisterhood, and healing are at the heart of every program. A renowned vocal artist and performance coach, Nickey uses music and movement to inspire, uplift, and empower. Through her companies, SoulForSouls, LLC and LocalVocals, she curates artistic experiences that blend creativity with social justice. She has also served as a mentor, entertainment consultant, and program coordinator for local and national organizations. In Date With Dad, Coach Nickey plays a critical role in preparing daughters for the emotional journey of reconnecting with their fathers. She leads four transformative Saturday workshops that help girls build confidence, address anxiety, foster sisterhood, and embrace healing—ensuring they step into the dance with joy, strength, and a renewed sense of connection. Her mission? To change lives—one song, one movement, one moment at a time.

About Girls For A Change

Program Leaders



Ken Walker is a Social Impact Producer at Girls For A Change, where he leads film projects that spotlight and empower Black girls through storytelling. With a background in production management, visual effects, and event logistics, Ken brings both technical expertise and a community-first mindset to his work. He previously supported teams at Industrial Light & Magic and Apple Studios, contributing to major feature films. A Richmond-based creative with a degree in Computer Science, Ken uses media as a tool for change, blending strategy, empathy, and action to elevate voices and drive impact across RVA and beyond.



Program Overview



The Date With Dad Program includes a 10-12 week fatherhood initiative in which incarcerated fathers are educated on their critical role as parents and supported in developing meaningful relationships with their daughters. Daughters and their mothers or caregivers also receive separate but adjacent support through dedicated programming and workshops to ensure alignment in progression among family members for the culminating Date with Dad dance. This program is designed to strengthen and celebrate the relationships between fathers (or father figures) and their daughters. It provides a structured, meaningful opportunity for fathers to engage in positive mentorship and bonding with their daughters.

Program Overview

A Full-Circle Experience for Families

The Date With Dad Program is built on a foundation of healing, connection, and empowerment for fathers, daughters, mothers, and caregivers. These pillars ensure that every participant has the support, resources, and opportunities needed to thrive beyond incarceration.



Fathers

Through a 10-12 week Fatherhood Coaching & Mentorship program, correctional facility residents develop positive parenting skills, emotional intelligence, and strong leadership within their families, fostering personal growth, accountability, and trust while healing past wounds and strengthening bonds with their daughters.



Daughters

The Daughters program provides a safe space for children to express their emotions, heal past wounds, rebuild trust, and foster open communication with their fathers, empowering them with self-worth, confidence, and emotional well-being.

As part of this journey, a rare celebratory dance inside the correctional facility allows fathers and daughters to create lasting memories through meaningful connection and conversation, fostering a warm and welcoming environment that nurtures their bond—even within the walls of a correctional facility.

Mothers & Caregivers Support

Mothers and caregivers receive separate but parallel support through dedicated workshops and programming, ensuring alignment in social-emotional growth across all families, creating a united approach to healing and rebuilding relationships. Mothers and caregivers are equipped with tools for emotional resilience, communication strategies, and parenting support to foster a stable family environment.

Aftercare

Fathers, mothers, and caregivers receive local, specialized aftercare and support services, including reentry support, therapy sessions, and ongoing parenting classes. Aftercare is defined by the unique support services and family-based programs offered in the surrounding community.

Program Overview

For Fathers: Rebuilding & Redemption

Parenting Education & Emotional Growth

Fathers complete 30+ hours of parenting classes to develop effective communication, emotional intelligence, and leadership within their families.

Restoring Father-Daughter Bonds

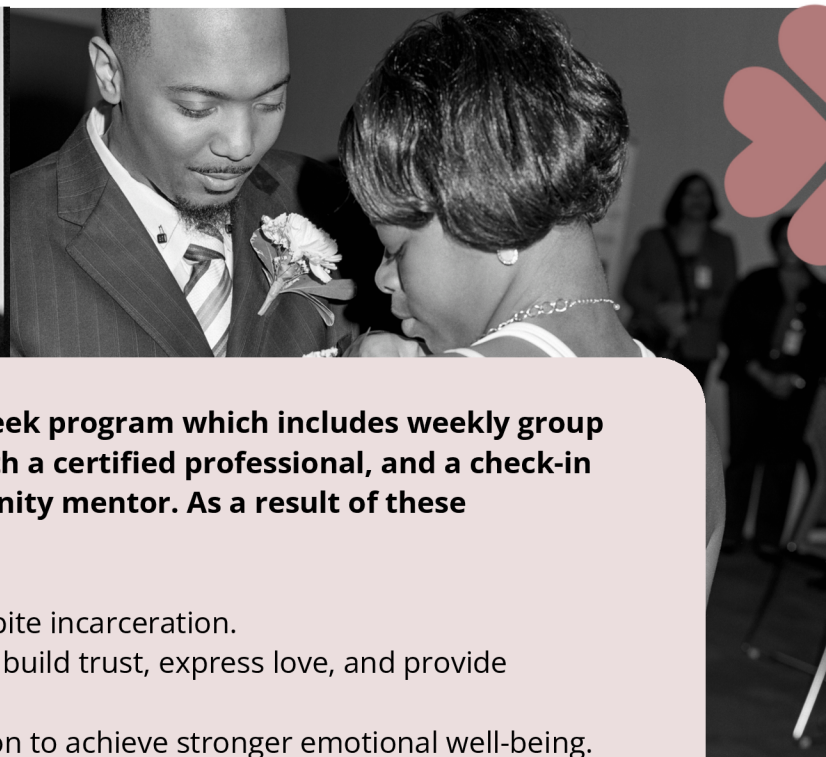
Through structured activities and intimate moments, fathers learn how to build trust, show vulnerability, and be present in their daughters' lives.

Breaking Cycles of Incarceration

Fathers gain self-awareness, accountability, and tools for reentry, helping them stay engaged post-release and reduce recidivism.

Commitment to Change

Fathers sign a Sacred Agreement, committing to continued growth and active participation in their children's lives.



These pillars are embedded in the 10-12 week program which includes weekly group sessions, one-on-one coaching sessions with a certified professional, and a check-in with a social worker, counselor, or community mentor. As a result of these interventions, fathers:

- Learn how to connect with daughters despite incarceration.
- Develop tools to effectively communicate, build trust, express love, and provide emotional support.
- Address past trauma through self-reflection to achieve stronger emotional well-being.
- Are equipped with skills to reconnect with daughters post-release.
- Understand how to co-parent effectively, even from a distance.



Program Overview

For Daughters: Healing & Empowerment

Emotional Support & Self-Discovery

Daughters receive free mental health counseling, access to peer support circles, and guidance to navigate emotions and trauma.

Building Self-Worth & Leadership

The program emphasizes self-love, resilience, and goal-setting, empowering girls to define their own futures beyond their fathers' circumstances.

Educational & Career Opportunities

Through mentorship, scholarships, and leadership training, daughters have access to resources that foster success and independence.

A Safe Space Where Love Finds its Way

This is where healing begins and connections are restored—one dance, one conversation, one moment at a time.



The Date With Dad program empowers daughters by fostering emotional healing, self-worth, and long-term success. Through free mental health counseling, peer support circles, and mentorship, they gain tools to process emotions, heal from trauma, and build resilience.

A key focus is self-worth and confidence, helping girls recognize their value beyond their fathers' circumstances. Through goal-setting and empowerment activities, they learn to define their own futures. The program also emphasizes education and career development, connecting daughters to mentorship, scholarships, and leadership training to break cycles and build independence. Leading up to the event, daughters participate in four Saturday sessions focused on social and emotional healing, confidence-building, and personal growth. These gatherings prepare them for the Date With Dad event while equipping them with life skills.

Beyond the event, the program provides ongoing support, ensuring daughters have access to resources, mentorship, and opportunities that continue to guide them on their journey of healing and success.



Program Overview

For Mothers & Caregivers: Strengthening the Family Unit

Parental Support & Healing Resources

Mothers and caregivers receive coaching, workshops, and access to networks that promote healthy family dynamics.

Community & Peer Networks

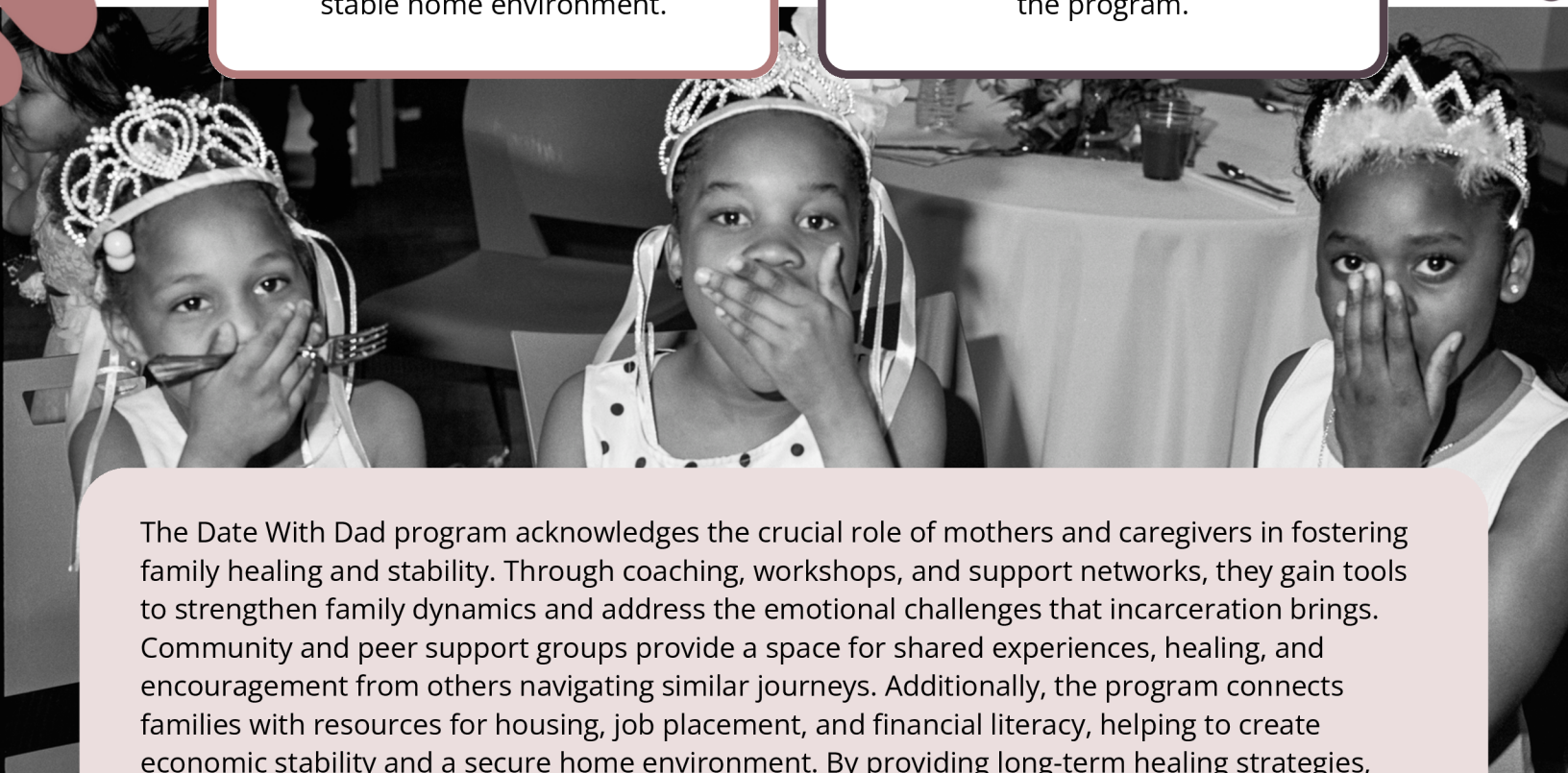
Support groups provide a space for shared experiences, healing, and encouragement from others facing similar challenges.

Educational & Economic Stability

Families are connected to resources for housing, job placement, and financial literacy to help create a stable home environment.

Long-Term Family Healing

Caregivers are given tools to support their daughters' emotional well-being, ensuring that healing extends beyond the program.



The Date With Dad program acknowledges the crucial role of mothers and caregivers in fostering family healing and stability. Through coaching, workshops, and support networks, they gain tools to strengthen family dynamics and address the emotional challenges that incarceration brings. Community and peer support groups provide a space for shared experiences, healing, and encouragement from others navigating similar journeys. Additionally, the program connects families with resources for housing, job placement, and financial literacy, helping to create economic stability and a secure home environment. By providing long-term healing strategies, caregivers are empowered to support their daughters' emotional well-being beyond the program, fostering a cycle of resilience, empowerment, and family renewal.

Implementation



Part I: Facility Planning

The following are aspects of program implementation that must be agreed upon by both Girls For A Change and the Correctional Facility. This list is not exhaustive and variations apply given the unique facility requirements.

- Screen Daughters documentary to residents to generate interest and a desire to participate
- Visitor clearance process (for program staff and daughters)
- Approval of program equipment, supplies, and food
- Creative engagement in the program by facility staff (teach a dance, give grace over food, etc.)
- Six hours of confirmed staff time and space for the dance on a Saturday or Sunday
- Facility access for program staff to set up the day before the dance and to break down after the dance
- Availability of social workers and/or therapists on-site to support fathers in processing emotions
- If the facility is big enough, we ask for a completely separate space for mothers/caregivers to be for the duration of the dance
- Agreement on qualifications for resident participants (ex. Having a daughter between the ages of 5-18; remaining time on sentence; reason for incarceration; OJC level, etc.)
- Release forms signed by anyone who will be photographed/filmed



Part of this process involves connecting with local community-based partners who can support the program implementation and post-program care. These partners include non-profits that specialize in working with returning citizens, girl-centered organizations, supportive services such as mental health providers and job training/placement specialists. These coordinating efforts help pull social support out of work silos and into a shared effort for community development.

Implementation



Part II: Coaching & Development

Led by National Master Trainer Chad Morris, facility residents engage in weekly training using the evidence-based fatherhood curriculum within the facility. As a part of the training, residents receive 1:1 coaching each week, engage with guest speakers and mentors (including formerly incarcerated fathers), journaling and letter writing exercises, and a fatherhood resource guide including books, articles, and community programs.

In coaching fathers, Mr. Morris uses The National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL) Fatherhood Development Curriculum which is based on real experiences and challenges of fathers in fragile family settings. Through 16 streetwise group discussion sessions, the curriculum offers practitioners a field-tested guide to working with fathers in providing support, information and motivation in areas of life skills, parenthood, relationships (including marriage and team parenting), and health. The curriculum also offers a methodology for training and learning, and assessment tools.

Caregivers and daughters receive their own separate but adjacent support and development using the evidence-based National Partnership for Community Leadership's (NPCL) Young Mothers and Parenting Curriculum and the Girls For A Change's strengths-based Daughters Curriculum.



Implementation

Part III: The Dance

At the end of the 10-12-week journey, fathers and their daughters will participate in a Father-Daughter Dance inside the facility—a moment of love, connection, and healing.

Mothers and caregivers may choose to leave and pick up their daughters after the dance or remain in a separate conference room for their own event. A workshop, pizza party, and mindfulness activities will be led by coaches to provide emotional support for mothers and caregivers. Board games and bonding activities will help caregivers connect and relax together during what is an emotionally complex experience for them as well.

Daughters will arrive at the facility in a limousine for a VIP experience. They will meet their fathers outside of the ballroom (set up in a gym, cafeteria, or conference room as determined by the facility). Fathers and daughters will be individually announced and walk down a red carpet together where they will take a professional photo as a keepsake. Each pair will proceed to their assigned table (numbered seating) for dinner.

Kickoff will begin with a formal introduction and explanation of the purpose of the event. A special thanks to the facility, supporters, and community partners. We will then acknowledge the sacred space with respect and gratitude. One or two therapists will be present to ensure fathers and daughters have the support they need to manage emotions and make the most of their time together.



Implementation

Part III: The Dance (cont.)

Dinner will then begin with fathers serving and engaging with their daughters at the buffet. The meal will be accompanied by music from a live DJ. A comedian MC will then lead interactive icebreakers to engage fathers and daughters. Hands-on activities are a great way to ease nerves and help participants get into the rhythm of the event. As such, art stations, games, and photo booths will be available to create meaningful memories. These activities are co-created with daughters during their pre-event workshops to ensure it is kid-friendly and entertaining. A dance instructor will then guide fathers and daughters through an organized dance (e.g., salsa, ballroom) followed by a freestyle dance opportunity. Participants will have a celebratory cake after the physical activities.



Special invited guests, celebrities, influencers, and community leaders will share words of encouragement before a final group photo is taken to capture the event's legacy. Each father will then read a heartfelt letter expressing his love, commitment, and promises to his daughter. Fathers and daughters have a special moment to share their feelings, gratitude, and dreams for the future. The event will come to an end with a closing ceremony where fathers and daughters stand in unity, affirming their bond.

There will be a safe and organized departure from the facility, coordinated by correctional officers to ensure safety and compliance with facility guidelines. Each girl will leave with a gift bag filled with activities, keepsakes, and her father's commitment letter.

This event will be a powerful and emotional conclusion—a reminder that, despite past struggles, fathers are choosing to be present and committed.



Implementation

Aftercare

This program is just the beginning. Ongoing support ensures that fathers, daughters, and caregivers can heal, reconnect, and thrive beyond incarceration. Upon completion of the Date with Dad program, participants' care will be transferred to local partners who specialize in mental health, reentry, job placement, housing, and familial support. Daughters receive free mental health counseling, participation in mentorship programs, support groups, and peer circles, and will get to attend a residential camp designed to promote emotional intelligence and self-growth. Mothers and caregivers receive ongoing peer support and guidance through parent coaching sessions, family healing workshops, and a network of social support resources.

Outcomes and Evaluation

By Completing This Program, Fathers Will:

- **Develop Essential Skills & Emotional Tools** – Learn how to sustain a meaningful relationship with their daughters through communication, support, and personal growth.
- **Improve Communication & Support** – Gain the ability to provide emotional support both during incarceration and after release.
- **Embrace Their Role as Fathers & Role Models** – Break negative cycles and build a positive, lasting presence in their children's lives.
- **Celebrate Their Commitment** – Participate in a transformative Father-Daughter Dance, symbolizing growth, connection, and renewal.
- **Access Ongoing Resources & Remote Learning** – Stay connected through virtual classes, parenting tools, and creative approaches to fatherhood from inside prison and beyond.
- **Prepare for Reentry & Rebuilding** – Develop the skills needed to reintegrate into their children's lives, heal past wounds, strengthen bonds, and make better choices for themselves and their families.

Girls For A Change, in partnership with Brookings Institute, will track the short and long term outcomes for fathers and daughters who participate, which will be continuously incorporated into future iterations of the program to ensure that engagement remains relevant, effective, and sustainable.

Budget



The Date With Dad Program, facilitated by Girls For A Change, is a family reunification initiative to strengthen bonds between incarcerated fathers and their daughters. This proposal refines the existing framework by eliminating redundancy, streamlining operations, and outlining a detailed \$250,000 budget for effective implementation.

Please note: All figures provided are estimates and may be adjusted based on actual costs or revised project requirements.



Budget

Cateogry	Estimate
Training & Coaching Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fatherhood Coaching: A 10-12-week program using evidence-based curricula, including parenting skills, emotional intelligence, and self-awareness.Daughter Support Program: Emotional resilience training, mentorship, and leadership development.Caregiver & Family Coaching: Workshops on family dynamics, support networks, and co-parenting.Facilitator Training: Certification of coaches and program facilitators.	\$50,000
Facility & Infrastructure Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">Venue Coordination: Collaboration with correctional facilities for space allocation and event logistics.Security & Compliance: Clearance procedures, legal approvals, and safety protocols.Program Equipment: Audio-visual materials, workbooks, and curriculum guides.	\$35,000
Dance Event Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Father-Daughter Reunion: A structured experience with dinner, dancing, and affirmation ceremonies.Logistics: Transportation, catering, photography, and entertainment.Therapeutic Support: On-site counselors and social workers for emotional well-being.	\$40,000
Aftercare & Continued Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mental Health Services: Free therapy sessions for daughters and fathers.Community-Based Partnerships: Collaboration with reentry programs, education, and job placement services.Scholarships & Leadership Programs: Financial aid for daughters in higher education and career advancement.	\$45,000
Administrative & Research Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">Program Management: Coordinators to oversee execution and maintain partnerships.Data & Evaluation Team: Research collaboration to track outcomes and program success.Fundraising & Grant Writing: Dedicated team for securing long-term financial sustainability.	\$30,000
Marketing & Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Relations & Advocacy: Media outreach and impact screenings.Social Media & Digital Campaigns: Awareness-building and donor engagement.Community Events & Fundraisers: Strengthening partnerships with local businesses and organizations.	\$25,000
Fundraising & Grants Writing	\$25,000
Transportation Support	\$25,000
Total Budget:	\$250,000



Budget

Phase 1: Planning & Facility Coordination	Facility approvals, legal clearances, community partner recruitment	Month 1-2
Phase 2: Training & Curriculum Implementation	Coach training, fatherhood workshops, daughter and caregiver support sessions	Month 3-4
Phase 3: Dance Preparation & Execution	Event logistics, rehearsals, father-daughter bonding sessions	Month 5-6
Phase 4: Aftercare & Program Evaluation	Mental health services, reentry support, impact assessment	Month 7-12



Conclusion

By investing \$250,000, GFAC can successfully implement the Date With Dad Program, creating transformative experiences that rebuild families, reduce recidivism, and empower young girls. This proposal ensures an efficient, seamless, and impactful program rollout.



Institutional Partnership Inquiry Form

Date With Dad Program Request

Facility Name (Required)

Name

Facility Physical Address (Required)

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

ZIP / Postal Code

Country

Facility Mailing Address (if different from physical)

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

ZIP / Postal Code

Country

Please fill out a Date With Dad Program Request form to get started on hosting the program in your facility

Visit: www.girlsforachange.org/daughters

We recognize that the criminal justice system is complex, with each facility operating differently, but the impact of incarceration on families remains universal. Our commitment at Girls For A Change is steadfast—we serve as ambassadors for change, sharing stories, offering real solutions through programs and services, conducting research, and advocating for policy reform.

Through continuous learning, program growth, and adaptability, we ensure that our approach remains effective. With each quarterly implementation and culminating event, we remain open to adjustments to best serve families and communities.

We look forward to scheduling an initial call to explore this potential partnership, raising awareness, funding, and opportunities to expand the Date With Dad program and its long-term impact.



www.girlsforachange.org

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100 Buford Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23235
(804) 405-2827
info@girlsforachange.org