



Calling All Dads!

by Joe Gandolfo

I will say it again.... and loud. Calling All Dads!! Today, children young and old need us now more than ever. Some children are calling out, some are crying out, many are silently yearning for our time, our attention, a hug, and words of encouragement and guidance.

Calling All Dads! In today's American society the term "fatherhood" illicitly many images – some positive, some negative. Playing catch in the backyard, spending time fishing, coaching youth sports and video taping a child's event – are some of the positive images. Fatherless children, absentee Dads and the distant Dad – are some of the negative images.

Whether we are trying to be actively involved or if we are experiencing a great disconnect just what is a Dad supposed to do? Where are the "Dad" models to look too and learn from? Maybe **we** are supposed to create the models.

We feel a desire to "*father*" deep in our heart and in our bones – sometimes hitting the mark, sometimes fumbling around. Society "says" Dads are important, but seems to marginalize Dads as well. We wonder about our importance. Confusing? I will take a stand and say absolutely and unequivocally – Dads are **INVALUABLE!** No doubt! Two insights I will share:

First, in August 2003 I spent 4 days with 8 other Dads in Kansas City, Kansas at the National Center for Fathering. Nine strangers, who traveled from around the U.S. to deepen their understanding and commitment to fathering. All so different, but all sharing the unspoken **knowing** of the power of fatherhood that extended much farther than the classroom we gathered in. Second, thousands of hours spent talking to the children and teenagers of thousands of Dads. Their hearts tell the important need of a connection with Dad.

Studies show (and I will give positives here): Children with involved Dads are – more confident and less anxious in unfamiliar settings, better able to deal with frustration, better able to gain a healthy sense of independence, more likely to mature into compassionate adults, more likely to have higher self esteem and GPA's, more sociable, less problems with the law, fewer incidents of alcohol and drug dependence.

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Listen to Joe's free daily podcast – **Teen Success Radio** – available on iTunes.
His new book **The Greatest Teenage Myth in the World** is now available @ www.JosephGandolfo.com or www.TheGreatestTeenageMythInTheWorld.com

Joe Gandolfo is on a mission to **champion the greatest commodity in today's world – our youth, teenagers, young adults and college students**, and to rally, strengthen and energize the adults – parents, educators, mental health professionals and organizations - who work with and care about our greatest commodity in the world.

Joe works as a **professional speaker, success coach, seminar leader motivational counselor and author**. He brings 20 years experience working with youth, teen-agers, student-athletes, professional athletes, adults, parents, educators, public and private schools, organizations and associations.

His clients have included: *Georgia Tech Athletic Association, Rockdale County Schools, Cobb County Schools, Cobb Teen Leadership, YMCA, Childcare Resource Network, University of Clemson, University of West Georgia, PGA of America, Milwaukee Brewers, Coca-Cola, SouthCoast Hospitals, Owens-Corning and MPI Georgia Chapter.*

He has been an adjunct professor at Georgia Tech (1996-2000) and Georgia State (2005-06). He was on staff at the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance (2000-07). He has had a private consulting practice since 1991.

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