



FATHER PROJECT - SF591 / SF648 / HF606

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota & Greater Minnesota Partners

Kids need dads

Too many Minnesota children grow up without a positive, involved father. Kids raised in households without a father are five times more likely to experience poverty than children in two-parent households.

There is a powerful solution

Since 1999, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota's FATHER Project has helped dads become an essential part of raising healthy, happy and secure children. Increased economic stability, stronger parenting skills and successfully meeting child support and other legal obligations help their children thrive.

The Power of Partnerships and Work

The Father Project provides a comprehensive model to address the whole person. Low-income dads are often impacted by many systems and our partnerships meet multiple needs:

- **MFIP:** men and their children on assistance
- **Reentry:** men recently released from incarceration
- **Child welfare:** another option for kids in crisis
- **Dads** working and paying child support

Financial stability is linked to family stability. Goodwill-Easter Seals has nearly 20 services and programs FATHER Project can access to help connect dads to jobs and build brighter futures.

FATHER Project outcomes:

\$3.41 actual ROI (increased wages and hours, job retention and child support payments)

\$19.71 average wage at placement

359 dads served in 2024

279 dads engaged in parenting group

Increased parenting engagement, stronger parenting skills and healthier co-parenting with partner/mother

Transformation of participants

into mentors and community leaders, including improved security and outcomes for children

GOODWILL

**EASTER
SEALS**

‘Charlie’ builds a successful future with FATHER Project

“Charlie” began with FATHER Project in August 2024, initially working part-time and without stable housing. Charlie’s goals were to secure employment and gain custody of his 2-year-old daughter. FATHER Project facilitated a crucial car repair, allowing Charlie to maintain consistent work attendance and build his resume, leading to full-time employment at a local health center.

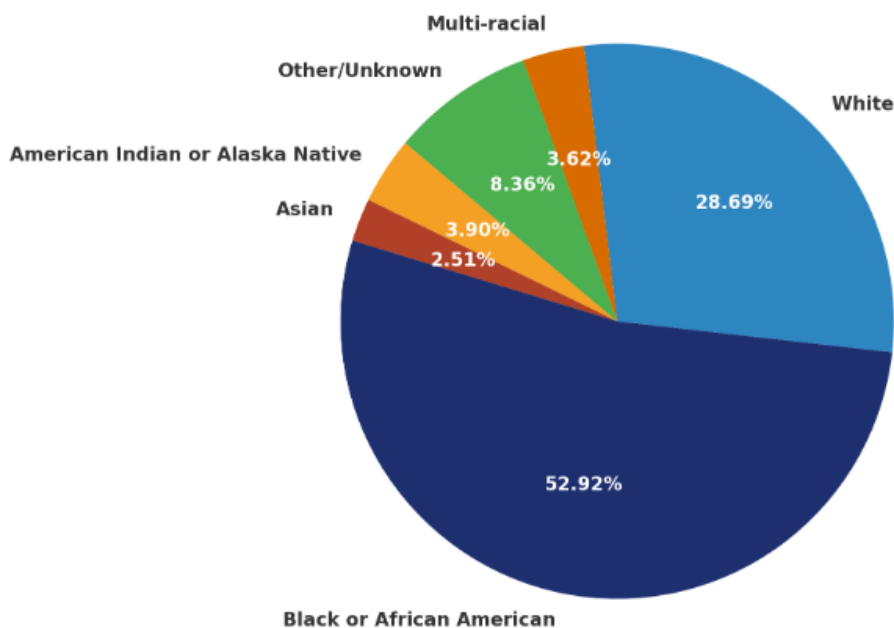
Charlie started his new, full-time position in January 2025 and is earning \$4.50 more per hour than from his previous job. Because of a few barriers, this is a position that he would not have even applied for without the support and encouragement of the FATHER Project staff.

Additionally, FATHER Project provided resources and education about custody, and Charlie is now in the process of establishing legal custody of his child. Housing remains a goal, and Charlie is currently living with a roommate, taking steps to build his credit with FATHER Project's support. Charlie’s progress is a testament to the impact of targeted support and intervention.

Who we serve

The FATHER Project helps assist fathers in overcoming barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. We serve dads who face barriers to supporting their children:

- Low income
- Criminal background
- Housing instability
- Lacking GED or high school
- Child protection



FATHER Project locations



Contacts

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