338

That's how many Missouri dads have joined the New Pathways program since July 1, 2025.

Dear

<<Title>> <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

Three-hundred and thirty-eight. That's the impressive and exciting number reported to me by Lisa, the director of programs for at-risk fathers at Good Dads. Lisa gets personally acquainted with almost every dad who enters the New Pathways program, and she's passionate about her job and the change she sees. Lisa does most of the intake interviews for our dads, so she knows their struggles and heartaches. She sees their tears and hears their stories. Most are filled with relief that someone will listen and help them on their path back to being a part of their child's life.

There are 209 dads enrolled in the Responsible Fatherhood program in 30 counties in southwest Missouri alone, and another 165 enrolled outside of the southwest region—in places like the Kansas City metro and north to the Iowa line, Columbia, Jeff City, and north and east to Hannibal and Fulton. Working alongside nearly 20 Good Dads chapters throughout the state, we anticipate **500 dads in the program come spring.**

At Good Dads we like to say that we help kids and communities one dad at a time. Think about it. When we help fathers, we accomplish a lot.

- **Our communities are safer.** Men in our program work honest jobs and care for their families instead of selling drugs. (85-90% of those incarcerated experienced father absence.)
- **Our economy is better.** Employed men have more money to spend. They work harder because they're working for their families. From 2018 to today, NPGD participants have paid **more than $4.5 million** to their child support cases. Most of these dads were not paying child support previously. This is more than three times the $1.2 million received from our state contract in that period.
- **Our schools are stronger.** Engaged fathers have children who do better in school.

The New Pathways for Good Dads program is rigorous and lengthy. Dads attend a weekly two-hour class for at least six months. They work on getting a job or a better job. They pursue regular contact with their children, if possible. And, if needed, they address their child support issues.

The impact is transformative. One young mother recently hugged me and said, "He's a different man with me and our children. This had made all the difference."

The fight against poverty, crime, mental health problems and school concerns has never been easy, but when we work together to help fathers, we more effectively address every social concern we have.

With the support of Missouri legislators, Good Dads can make an even stronger impact in our state. **I will be at the capitol building on Wednesday, February 11,** and would love the opportunity to talk with you more about how serving at-risk fathers can make all the difference for our economy, schools and families.

Warmly,

Jennifer L. Baker, PsyD
Good Dads Founder & Director



Lebanon ▪ January



Cass County Jail (Harrisonville) ▪ November



Kansas City ▪ July



Springfield ▪ March



Branson ▪ February



Texas County ▪ November



Chillicothe Graduation ▪ October



Springfield Graduation ▪ June



Joplin ▪ March



Cedar County ▪ April



Columbia ▪ December



Ava ▪ January



Hannibal ▪ October



Springfield ▪ August

NEW PATHWAYS for GOOD DADS

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Missouri legislature, Good Dads chapters across the state hosted **77 classes for fathers in the New Pathways for Good Dads Program** in 2025. This year, we want to host even more classes, improving outcomes for even more families.