**"Helping Kids and Communities One Dad at a Time"**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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# Good Dads to celebrate 10 years of fatherhood work at annual celebration

Good Dads Inc., Missouri's leading father-focused nonprofit, is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a large fundraising dinner and celebration event **Thursday, Oct. 16 from 5:30–8:00 p.m.** at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield.

This year's theme is **Gather 'Round the Campfire: Fanning the Flames of Fatherhood.** Leveraging the cozy nostalgia of roasting marshmallows with Dad during a fall camping trip, Good Dads will add fuel to the proverbial fire by sharing stories of impact and inspiring others to be a part of the movement.

Founded in 2015, Good Dads achieves its mission to "help kids and communities one dad at a time" by facilitating responsible fatherhood programs, healthy relationships classes, community development efforts, events, web resources and more.

"We chose the campfire theme because it is a very apt representation of what we've experienced as champions of responsible fatherhood," said Jennifer L. Baker, PsyD, a clinical psychologist and the Founder and Director of Good Dads. "When we started ten years ago, we only served a small portion of Springfield, but now we have Good Dads chapters now in nearly 20 Missouri communities. Just like a spark that catches and grows into a wildfire, Good Dads is experiencing incredible momentum."

Funds raised at the event will go directly back to the mission, Baker said, allowing Good Dads to continue expanding into more communities, serving more fathers and strengthening more families.

"This year at the dinner, I'm most excited to celebrate our Great Community of the Year contest winners," Baker said. "Because we believe that fatherhood engagement is, first and foremost, a community-based effort, we knew it was important to recognize the communities in the Show-Me state who banded together, often overcoming many challenges, to bring these programs to their residents."

The contest encouraged leaders in Good Dads chapters to demonstrate their achievements in Good Dads' four Great Community pillars: strong schools, robust economies, flourishing relationships and safe neighborhoods. Three winners, Good Dads chapters in Ava, Rolla and Texas County, were announced this spring.

"What's remarkable about the work we do is that anyone can get on board with it," Baker said. "Any community, regardless of its size, can make great strides to better serve the fathers and father-figures who live there. That's why it's so important to me that we show the community accomplishments happening throughout Missouri for dads."

Good Dads proudly serves nearly two-dozen communities and 17 chapters throughout the state. The nonprofit hopes to expand its footprint beyond Missouri soon.

The registration-only event is expected to see more than 300 guests. Attendees can look forward to music, food and games all while making a difference for the nonprofit.

**Additional Information:**

**Journalists are encouraged to arrive at the Oasis anytime between 5–8 p.m. to cover the event.** When you arrive, we kindly ask that reporters speak to organizers at the ticket desk at the ballroom entrance so we know you're here.

**Event Schedule:**

**5:30** Cocktail Hour & Games

**6:30** Welcome

**6:35** Invocation & Dinner

**7:15** Celebrating Great Communities of the Year

**7:30** Presentation: Spreading Like Wildfire

**8:00** Fan the Flames: Join the Good Dads Mission



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