

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Patricia Carroll, DADS'RC plcprcod@yahoo.com; 317-439-7919 www.dadsrc.org

Key Research Reveals 1 in 4 Fathers Do Not Live with Their Children Results also Indicate Fathers Want to Spend Increased Time with Children

State College, PA–January 25, 2019– According to a <u>Pew Research Center survey</u>, for the most part fathers place a high value on spending time with their children and desire an active role in caring for them. Unfortunately, there are increasing ranks of children growing up without a father in the home.

The report revealed 63% of fathers say they spend too little time with their children. A sizable share of fathers (20%) say the main reason they spend too little time with their children is that they don't live with them full-time.

In addition, about one-in-four fathers of children 17 or younger (24%) are living apart from at least one of their children, and 17% are living apart from all of them, according to the Pew Research Center analysis of data from the National Survey of Family Growth.

"At the heart of Dads' Resource Center, we are a children's advocacy organization that aims to ensure that each child has the appropriate involvement and contributions from both of their parents, regardless of their living or marital status," states Jeff Steiner, executive director of Dads' Resource Center. "We believe that a disenfranchised father makes disadvantaged children."

"With this cause and effect, it is essential for our legal and court systems, human service organizations and communities to recognize and commit resources to ensure custodial equity. There is a need for both parents to be involved in the positive upbringing of their children, whether the parents are married, separated or divorced. Any standards of consideration regarding the rights and custody of children should be applied equally to both parents by the courts and all agencies," Steiner concludes.

Committed to promoting the well-being and healthy development of children and helping to support and encourage fathers to be fully and actively engaged in the lives of their sons and daughters, the Dads' Resource Center developed the Fatherhood Four Commitments that comprise the primary responsibilities that all fathers have toward their children.

The Fatherhood Four Commitments

1. A father's primary focus should be his children. Whatever complications or challenges may exist or develop, a father should put the safety, health, happiness and well-being of his children first. This should be displayed consistently in words, actions and deeds.

2. Fathers should respectfully co-parent. Separated and divorced fathers should communicate with their children's mother in a polite and courteous manner, and make every effort to accommodate reasonable adaptations to parenting plans. A child's mother should never be knowingly portrayed in a negative light to children, and the mother/child relationship should be supported.

3. Fathers should ensure the basic needs of their children. This includes financially, medically, educationally and developmentally. Their overall welfare and safety should always be first. Fathers should be active in the lives of their children, spending meaningful, quality time with them, actively communicating, and be a positive role model and influence on their lives.

4. Fathers should strive to be the best possible father. Fathers should teach and mentor their children, and strive to be a loving and caring father.

The Dads' Resource Center aims to support fathers and their children from separated or divorced families. DRC provides resources and encouragement to ensure that fathers can be fully and actively engaged in the lives of their sons and daughters, providing the time, input, emotional and financial support that their children deserve and require.

For more information or to learn about available assistance, visit <u>www.dadsrc.org</u>.

About Dads' Resource Center

<u>The Dads' Resource Center</u> was founded by Dr. Joel N. Myers, AccuWeather Founder and Chairman in 2015. Its mission is to provide education, resources and advocacy for single fathers so they are able to fulfill their vital role in the well-being and healthy development of their children. At the heart, Dads' Resource Center is a children's advocacy organization that aims to ensure that each child has the appropriate involvement and contributions from both of their parents.

###