

FATHERS MATTER ATL

Impact Report

2021-2024



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Dear Partners

Reflecting on our progress since 2021, we remain committed to advancing the vision to work across sectors and create a system that equitably supports fathers, and we are proud of how we do this work collectively.

With great pride and gratitude, we present the three-year impact report of Fathers Matter ATL to you. This report is more than a reflection of milestones. It is a testament to the collective power of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering dedication to strengthening father engagement across metro Atlanta and beyond.

Over the past three years, with over 40 committed partners, we have championed a community mobilization approach that ensures fathers are recognized and supported as essential pillars of their families and communities. Through fun and innovative events, we have engaged fathers meaningfully, affirming their vital role in their children's lives. By building the capacity of our partners, we have created a more informed and intentional network of organizations committed to father-inclusive policies and programs. Our work has resonated nationally, with presentations influencing broader conversations and collaboration on father engagement. Our recognition through awards and grants underscores the significance and impact of our shared efforts.

Fathers Matter ATL continues to grow, innovate, and make a lasting difference because of your steadfast commitment. As we celebrate these achievements, we reaffirm our dedication to advancing equity and opportunity for fathers and their families across our state. As we forge ahead, we invite you all to contribute your ideas, expertise, and passion to this important work. Together, we can make a lasting impact and transform the lives of fathers, families, and communities that have long been marginalized.

In service,

Latrice Rollins and Wykinia Jones



**LATRICE
ROLLINS**

Convener, Fathers Matter ATL
Morehouse School of Medicine



**WYKINIA
JONES**

Equity for Health Consulting

Dedication



BROTHER ROOSEVELT MUHAMMAD

Brother Roosevelt Muhammad was a dedicated husband, loving father, and servant leader. He was a selfless mentor to many people. He led fatherhood programs across the state and had a passion for working with youth and fathers impacted by the legal system.

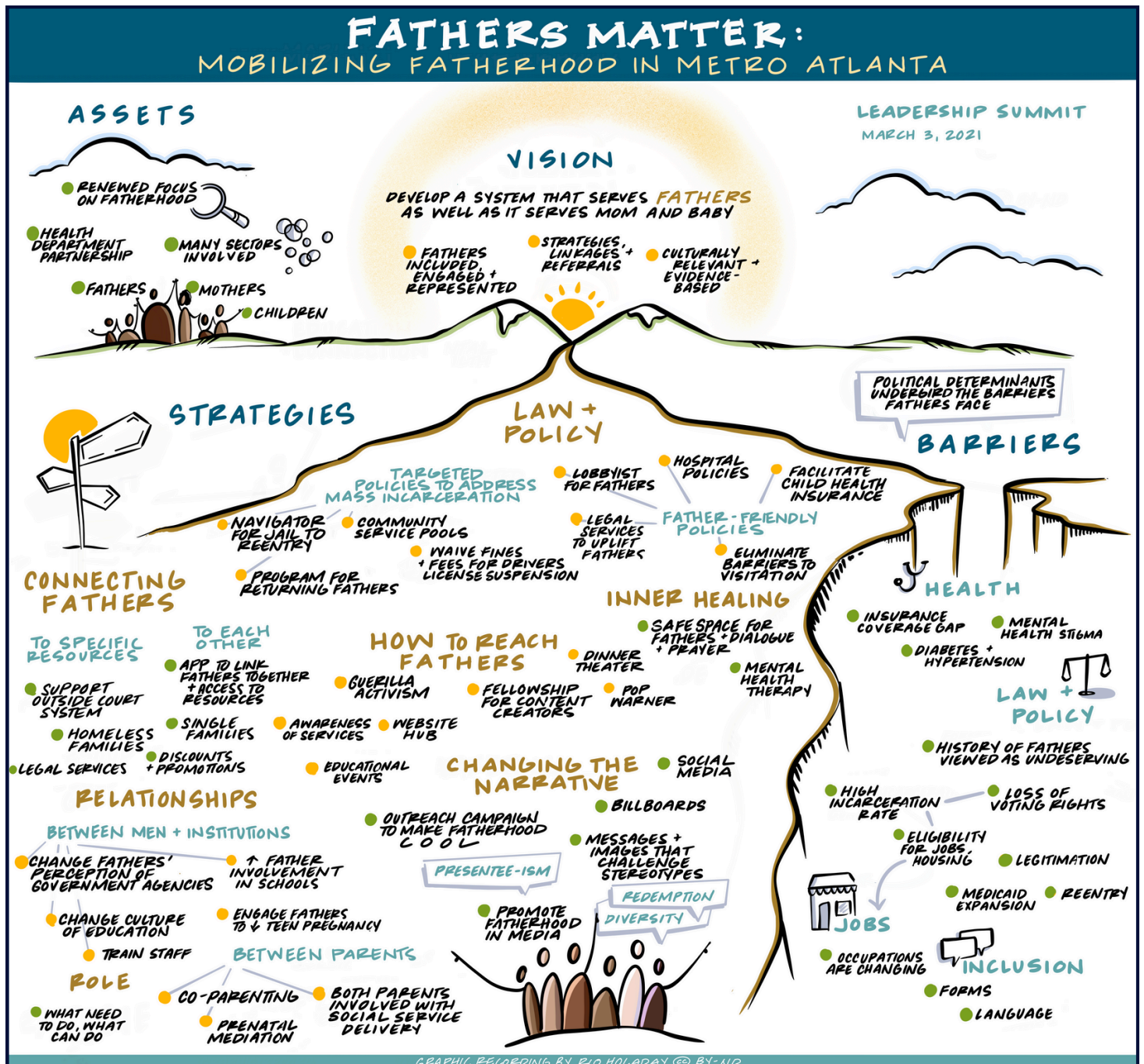
Brother Muhammad was the biggest supporter of Fathers Matter ATL, attending all planning and implementation meetings for several strategies from its inception. His warmth, wisdom, and encouragement benefitted all who attended.

We don't believe it is a coincidence that Brother Muhammad was born in March, the month we celebrate Fathers Matter ATL.

We are grateful to the Muhammad Family for continuing to support the annual Fatherhood Leadership Summit and Community Day which was named in his honor.

We truly miss him and are honored to continue his legacy in the fatherhood field.

The Vision



WORK ACROSS SECTORS TO CREATE EQUITABLE SYSTEMS FOR FATHERS

Organization Overview

Through advocacy, collaboration, and capacity-building, we are:

- Addressing Mass Incarceration
- Connecting Fathers to Resources and to Each Other
- Implementing Father-Friendly Policies
- Improving Relationships (Between Fathers & Agencies; Between Parents)
- Reaching Fathers
- Reclaiming the Narrative
- Supporting Inner Healing

VISION

The vision of Fathers Matter ATL is to work across sectors and create a system that equitably supports fathers.

MISSION

The mission of Fathers Matter ATL is to promote and support father engagement by elevating their importance to children, families, and communities.

CORE VALUES



Collaboration



Community



Cooperation



Innovation



Service



Sustainability



TEAMWORK

MAKES THE DREAM WORK



ADDRESSING MASS INCARCERATION

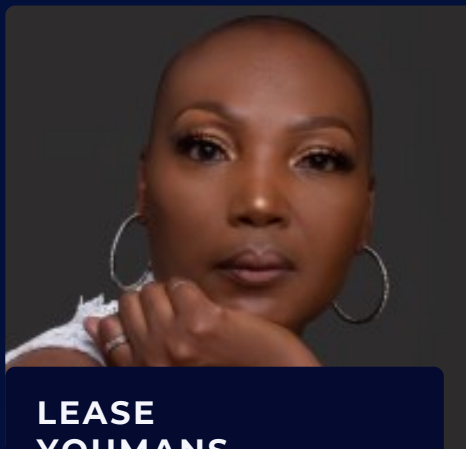
This strategy helps fathers who have been impacted by the legal system.

CO-LEADS:



**THOMAS
COTTON**

Founder
Redemption & Advancement Alliance



**LEASE
YUMANS**

Founder & CEO
Change in Motion

Strategy Highlights

100

FATHERS REACHED

25

PARTNERS AND
VENDORS ENGAGED

2

GRANTS AWARDED

Project	Description	Outcome
Roosevelt Muhammad Community Day	Started in 2023, this event is centered around fathers who are justice-impacted and aims to provide them with the necessary support to overcome barriers they may face.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 attendees and 25 vendors over three years.• Fathers were connected to legitimization, expungement, and parenting resources.
Research to Understand Systems for Housing (RUSH)	Fathers Matter ATL received funding from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Systems for Action opportunity to assess: (1) barriers and facilitators of the homelessness response system for our medical, public health, and social service partners who serve fathers; and (2) feasibility of implementing a system alignment approach to address fathers' housing challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with six fathers with lived experience and 8 medical, social service and public health partners to guide the work• Connected 14 fathers to services• Captured six fathers' stories• Received an additional \$65,000 to work with the Mayor's Housing Help Center to meet fathers' needs.
Operation LIFT (Linking Interfaith and Fathers Together)	Using the successful One Church, One Inmate model, this initiative connects faith organizations to fathers who have been impacted by the legal system and need support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed an on demand webinar to introduce faith organizations to the project• Engaged three faith organizations to participate

CONNECTING FATHERS

This strategy shares resources with fathers and supports coordination among partners.

CO-LEADS:



**CARL
ROUTE**

Program Director
Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere



**WESLEY
BUGG**

Director
Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere

Strategy Highlights

6

FATHERS MATTER ATL
SIGNATURE EVENTS

60

PARTNER EVENTS
SUPPORTED

12

FATHERS MATTER ATL
SPEAKERS

Project	Description	Outcome
Community Calendar	This resource ensures that partners are aware of each others' events and can share events with fathers they serve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fathers Matter ATL hosts five annual events and supports nearly 60 events each year
Speaker's Bureau	This resource ensures that the experts within Fathers Matter ATL are connected to external opportunities in diverse areas related to fatherhood. This also acts as a small revenue source for Fathers Matter ATL activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Twelve Fathers Matter ATL partners participate in the Speaker's Bureau.Speakers have been invited to share at the Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network's Fatherhood Initiative Conference and Head Start Men's Health Webinar.We are working on a contract with a county health department for their father engagement series.



Fathers Matter ATL is a great ecosystem.

Carl Route, Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere

IMPLEMENTING FATHER-FRIENDLY POLICIES

This strategy builds our capacity to address policies that impact fathers and their families in Georgia. Policy priorities include shared parenting, legitimization, child support reform, and Medicaid expansion.

CO-LEADS:



**CALVIN
WILLIAMS**

President
Lucian Families



**DR. KRISTIE
ROBERTS**

Executive Director/ Faculty Fellow
Middle Georgia State University

Strategy Highlights

40

POLICY MAKERS
ENGAGED

6

PROCLAMATIONS
RECEIVED

Project	Description	Outcome
Fatherhood Celebration Month	In 2021, we worked with our city and county policymakers to proclaim June as Fatherhood Celebration Month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Received six proclamations from City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Clayton County, Cobb County, DeKalb County and Douglas County.
Policy Training	Team members participated in a number of trainings to learn strategies to advance father-inclusive policies in Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participated in a training on the Research to Policy Collaborative model with Dr. Azaliah Israel.Participated in a discussion with Dr. Rufus Lynch who worked to establish a Fatherhood Commission in Pennsylvania and Anne Stone of the Washington Fatherhood Council.Participated in policy training by Georgia Watch and developed a pitch to establish a Fatherhood Commission in Atlanta
Senate Committee Testimony	The team worked together to develop a presentation, <i>Engaging Fathers in Foster Care and Adoption Cases to Support Positive Child and Family Outcomes</i> , for the Senate Committee on Foster Care and Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A recommendation was included in the Senate Committee's final report stating, "Legislation to streamline the legitimation process, with protections for victims of domestic violence, should be considered."

IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS

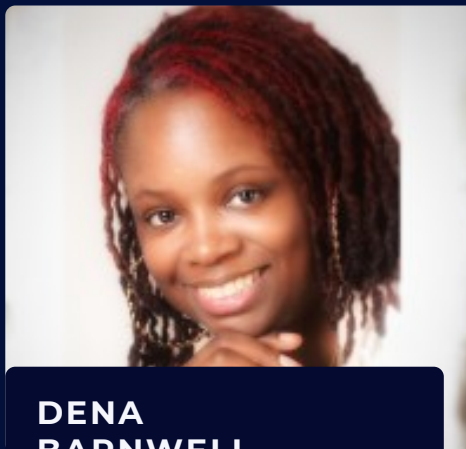
This strategy focuses on improving relationships between parents and between fathers and agencies to promote and support father engagement.

CO-LEADS:



**CHRIS
WHITE**

Executive Director
Father Movement



**DENA
BARNWELL**

Founder & Public Health Consultant
Spring Forward

Strategy Highlights

100

FATHERS REACHED

30

PARTNERS AND VENDORS
ENGAGED

Project	Description	Outcome
Webinars	The team developed and hosted four webinars via Zoom and Clubhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uploaded webinars on coparenting, mom and dad duties, developmental milestones and conflict management on YouTube.• Reached about 40 parents through videos and webinars.
Breakfast Club	Fathers Matter ATL Breakfast Clubs are spaces for fathers and agency staff to build relationships, and share experiences and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosted two breakfast clubs in Atlanta with Quality Care for Children and Decatur with DeKalb Community Resource Network.• Reached 40 fathers and engaged 30 vendors.
Principles of Trustworthiness Toolkit Pilot Project	The AAMC Center for Health Justice funded Fathers Matter ATL as one of four multisector community partnerships to formally use and evaluate the Principles of Trustworthiness toolkit for one year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received \$30,000 from AAMC• Supported five agencies to develop a trustworthiness action plan to better engage fathers• Established an accountability committee of fathers to guide the agencies' work



If you're gonna do it, take your time, do it right.

The Principles of Trustworthiness, Association for American Medical Colleges

REACHING FATHERS

This strategy focuses on the development and implementation of events and activities that are creative and effective in engaging fathers and supporting them with resources.

CO-LEADS:



**DEXTER
COOPER**

Project Operations Manager
KDH Research & Communication



**REGINALD
JOHNSON**

Health Promotions Specialist
CareSource

Strategy Highlights

Project	Description	Outcome
Health Fair	This was an opportunity to share resources and have a family friendly event to celebrate Men's Health and Fatherhood Celebration Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with Cobb County Public Health and Higher Calling Ministries in DeKalb to host vendors and panel discussions for fathers• Engaged 64 fathers and 29 vendors.
Community Play	Two short plays were developed to share fathers' narratives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 fathers shared their stories with playwrights to develop the plays.• Plays were performed at Compassion Con in Atlanta, which had hundreds of attendees.
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament	The basketball tournament is an opportunity for healthy competition among fathers and a family friendly event to strengthen family and community relations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 basketball teams and 10 vendors participated in the tournament.• Over 100 attendees cheered the fathers on!
All Pro Dad	The team wanted to strengthen father-child relationships and make schools more father-friendly year-round. All Pro Dad chapters were started in Title I schools in Cobb, Douglas, Clayton, Fulton and DeKalb counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received \$15,000 from the Community Leadership Network to fund father engagement and mental health work in schools.• Reached 584 fathers through 31 All Pro Dad meetings across six schools.• Presented on this initiative for a National Family Engagement webinar.• Participated in Million Father March at five schools.



850 50

FATHERS REACHED VENDORS ENGAGED



RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE

This strategy focuses on developing and distributing original programming across all of our partner social media and podcast outlets to promote and support fatherhood and father engagement.

LEAD:



**DR. J.L.
ADOLPH**

Assistant Professor
Georgia State University

648

FOLLOWERS

1,870

FATHERS MATTER ATL
WEBSITE VISITORS

897

SUBSCRIBERS



FATHERS MATTER ATL

A multi-sector team of leaders in the community, academia, and health and human services working together to "create equitable systems for fathers."



[Facebook](#) Fathers Matter ATL [Twitter](#) @FMatterga [YouTube](#) @fathersmatter2448 [Instagram](#) @fathersmatteratl



We're not just changing the narrative, we're reclaiming the narrative.

Darnell Rice, The Confess Project

SUPPORTING INNER HEALING

This strategy focuses on addressing the mental and emotional health of fathers through resources and events.

CO-LEADS:



**TRESACA
HAMILTON**

Founder & CEO
The Sid Center



**GAMEL
DE WEESE**

Founder & CEO
The Helping Hand Travels

Strategy Highlights

60

FATHERS REACHED

165

CHILDREN IMPACTED

Project	Description	Outcome
Mental Health Resource Guide	Developed a resource directory for fathers with mental health providers and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distributed resource guide at events and through email listserv reaching thousands of fathers and families.
Let's R.A.P.	This holiday event highlights the importance of mental health and offers fathers an opportunity to receive gifts for themselves and their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have had 13 speakers, fathers who are mental health experts, at events in Atlanta, Forest Park, and Riverdale.• The average number of registrants for this event is 75.• Toys for Tots has provided hundreds of new toys for fathers to select.
On My Shoulder Fatherhood Curriculum Training	This curriculum was selected by the strategy team to address the lack in mental and emotional health content in partners' existing fatherhood programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funds from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation were leveraged to cover the costs of the training and curriculum materials.• Eight partners participated in the curriculum training via Zoom.• One partner started their own nonprofit organization offering classes and events to youth and families.



FATHERS MATTER



Presentations



National

Fathers & Families Coalition of America
National Family Engagement Webinar
National Fatherhood Summit
National Healthy Start Association Fatherhood Summit

Local

Atlanta Men's Health Summit

Awards

Annual Black Male Educator Day at the State Capitol Honor
Presented to Timothy Jenkins - All Pro Dad Captain

CareSource Heart of the Community Award
Presented to Fathers Matter ATL



Events



CompassionCon
Ending Mass Incarceration Conference
Fathers' Resource Fair @ Houston County Galleria
Million Father March

Roosevelt Muhammad Fatherhood Leadership Summit

Since 2022, the Fatherhood Leadership Summit has served as an opportunity for Fathers Matter ATL to share our progress and accomplishments and develop plans with leaders to advance equitable resources and policies for fathers and families. This event was renamed to honor the life and legacy of Brother Roosevelt Muhammad, one of our partners, friends, and fatherhood champions.

Roosevelt Muhammad Fatherhood Leader Award

Each year, a leader is nominated and voted for by fellow Fathers Matter ATL leaders to receive the Roosevelt Muhammad Fatherhood Leader Award. This leader meets the following criteria: (1) commitment to promoting and supporting father engagement; (2) dedication to improving services, programs, and policies for fathers; (3) impact in the fatherhood field; (4) in partnership or collaboration to better serve fathers and families; (5) dedication of resources (time, people, and/or funds) to Fathers Matter ATL.

Roosevelt Muhammad Fatherhood Leader Award Recipients:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2023 | Feliciano Lewis
Founder & CEO, Men 4 Men LLC |
| 2024 | Carl Route
Program Director, Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere |

— “ —

[Roosevelt Muhammad] has left a lasting legacy by uplifting fathers to be strong leaders in their families. He dedicated his life to being a great husband and father, then, he went out into his community and helped others do the same. His impact will continue to be felt and will continue to change lives.

Chris White, Father Movement



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to our partners for your generous support

100 Black Men of Atlanta

100 Black Men of South Metro Atlanta

candi dugas & associates

CareSource

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Change Gon Come

Clayton County School District

Cobb & Douglas Board of Health

Community Council of Metro Atlanta

DeKalb Health

DadCypher

Family First - All Pro Dad

Fatherless Generation Foundation

Fathers Incorporated

Father Movement

FIRM Podcast

Fulton County Board of Health

Georgia Department of Community Supervision

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Georgia Department of Human Services

Georgia Department of Public Health

Georgia Division of Child & Family Services

Georgia Division of Child Support Services

Goodwill

Grace Legacy Consulting

Higher Calling Ministries

Lucian Families

Men4Men LLC

Metro Atlanta Chess Partners

MWI Menswear

Pappi Picasso Poetry

People for the Advancement of Black Males

Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere

Redemption & Advancement Alliance

Refresher Community

Refreshing Worship Christian Church

Solomon's Temple Christian Ministries

The Bail Project

The Confess Project

The Sid Center

WorkSource

YMCA Atlanta

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to our students

Students gained real-world experience with diverse partnerships and were exposed to the unique strengths and needs of fathers. Fathers Matter ATL is committed to supporting the next generation of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and educators toward more father-inclusive policies, systems, and environments.

Morehouse School of Medicine

The Summer Scholars in the Community program is designed to provide medical students with hands-on experience supporting community-engaged or service learning projects under the instruction of a faculty member.

Cottrell Armistad, Volunteer

Trenton Madison, MD Student

Georgia State University

The Social Work program requires students to complete field placement/practicum to gain working experience.

Mike-Anthony Fields, MSW Student

Chazmin Gibbons, MSW Student

Jaronie Perez, MSW Student

Tandi Van-Holland, MSW Student

Association of Public Health Nutritionists

The Health Equity Internship program places students with faculty for a semester to gain program development, evaluation, and/or research skills.

Jared Bailey, MPH Student

Alvin Reynolds, MPH Student

Frederick Thompson, MPH Student

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to our sponsors for your generous support

We want to acknowledge the contributions of those who supported Fathers Matter ATL through donated funds, items, space, and opportunities.

Association of American Medical Colleges

Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network

CareSource

Compassionate Atlanta

DeKalb Exchange Recreation Center

Fletcher Transportation

Georgia Watch

Houston County Galleria

Lucretia Doyle

redefinED Atlanta

RICE Center

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Rodney Washington

Roosevelt Hall

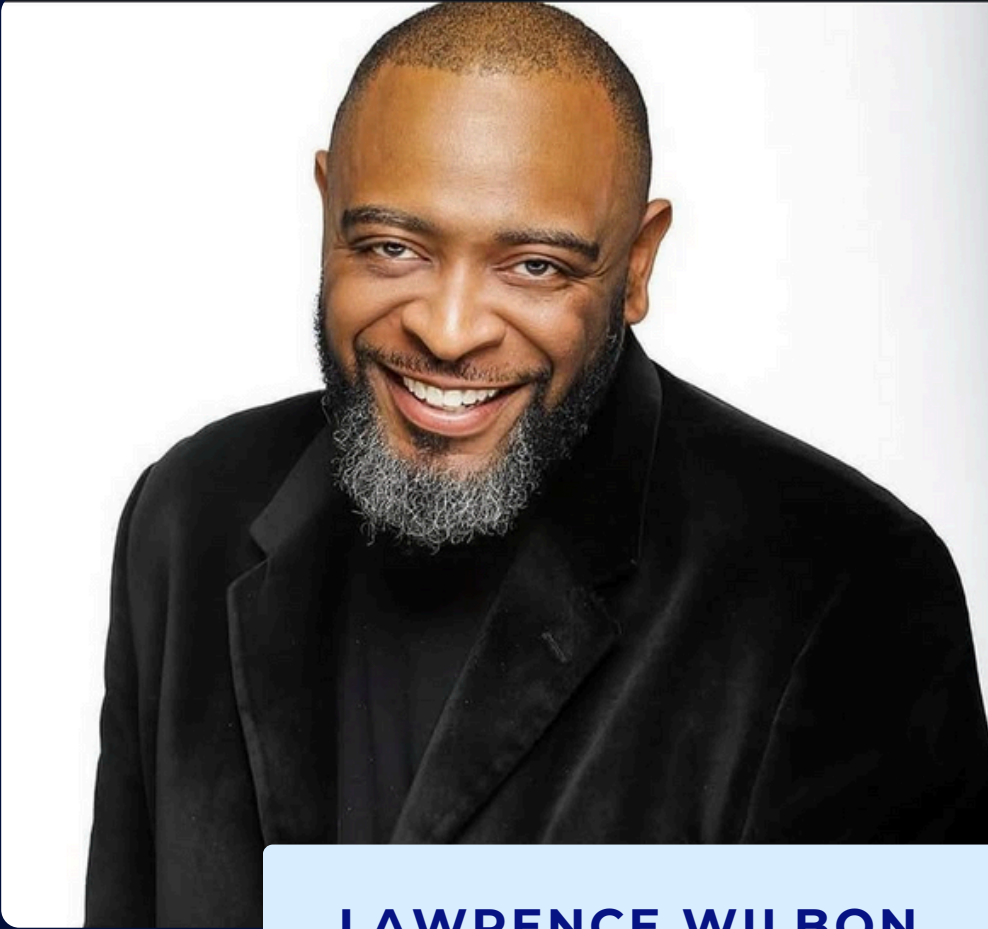
Sequoyah Middle School

Supporting At-Risk Families Everywhere (SAFE)

YMCA Atlanta

Young Folk Psychological Services

In Memoriam



LAWRENCE WILBON

Though shadows fall and stars may dim,
Your light remains, a gentle hymn.
We'll miss your smile, your kind embrace,
A cherished memory, time cannot erase.
Your laughter rings, a sweet refrain,
A bond of friendship, through sun and rain.
Though gone from sight, you'll live within,
A treasure held, where we'll always begin.
We'll carry you, in hearts so deep,
A promise made, the memories to keep.

