



DadsCoachingDads.org



# **MENTOR A FELLOW DAD**

f you're a dad who wants to make a positive difference in the community, then the Dads Coaching Dads program is a great way to help. With Dads Coaching Dads, area fathers are matched with other Southwest Florida dads who need a helping hand as they work to get their kids back. Volunteer mentors can truly make a difference for a lifetime by providing support, guidance, and a positive relationship with another dad.

Children's Network of Southwest Florida (CNSWFL) and our community partners strive to strengthen families. When the state removes children for their safety, we ensure that they receive love and care until they can be reunited with their parents. Meanwhile, we work with the parents to help them heal too and become ready to care for their children. But the learning process doesn't end there, and you can change lives for the better by sharing your knowledge, guidance, and experience with a fellow father.

Please read this brochure and consider how you can help strengthen a local family Volunteer Mentor with CNSWFL's Dads Coaching Dads program.

## ABOUT DADS COACHING DADS

You can make a lasting difference for another family in as little as an hour a week by mentoring another father in your community with CNSWFL's Dads Coaching Dads program. The goal of Dads Coaching Dads program is to empower local fathers whose children have been removed by the court system to succeed and successfully navigate the transition of getting their children back.

By helping support a father when he needs it most, you can help break generational cycles of abuse, neglect, and poverty — all an hour at a time. The program matches mentors — people like you — with men whose children have been removed by the court system. Why that happens will vary goal from family to family, with underlying causes including past substance abuse, trauma, domestic violence, and more. However, fathers being mentored have already made enormous changes in their lives and just need your help to become the great dads they can be.



Children's Network of Southwest Florida, LLC is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.

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#### How You Can Help

Dads Coaching Dads mentors provide non-judgmental support to work with fellow fathers in the following essential areas:

- Social Connection: Helping dads develop social supports;
- Hands-On Assistance: Connecting families with available benefits and services (such as food stamps, medical resources, free tax filing, etc.);
- Friendly Visitation: Offering a caring and supportive relationship in the spirit of "fathers helping fathers" to reduce feelings of isolation; and
- Basic Parenting Assistance: Assisting with parent education by teaching, coaching, and modeling healthy parenting.

If you are new to mentoring, don't worry. You will receive training on engaging the families, how the child welfare system works, safety, confidentiality, planning for success, and more. Plus, just being a loving father yourself gives you a wealth of experience to draw upon.



#### Join Dads Coaching Dads

Whether you have questions or eager to begin, please contact Children's Network of Southwest Florida today at (239) 226-1524, or visit us online at DadsCoachingDads.org. We look forward to working with you and helping you change lives for good for local dads and families.



### **Other Ways to Help**

f you think the Dads Coaching Dads program may not be right for you, there are other ways that you can make a difference for children and families in our community. These include:

- Other Volunteer Opportunities: Assisting us with special events, drives to help children and families in need, community outreach, and more;
- Donating: Making a financial contribution to support the work of CNSWFL and abuse prevention efforts in our community;
- Fostering: Becoming a licensed foster parent to provide a safe, loving, temporary refuge to children; and
- Adoption: Giving a forever family for a child, teen, or group of siblings.

Everyone can do something to help, so please visit us online at **ChildrensNetworkFlorida.org** for more information, or call **(855)-933-KIDS (5437)**.