

The Fatherhood Manologues



The Fatherhood Manologues is a part of a greater initiative (www.themanhoodtree.com) to highlight the importance, value and contributions of fathers through their involvement and presence in their children's lives. The initial group of participants for the Fatherhood Manologues are all from the Greater Hartford area. Spearheaded by Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad, the Manologues includes performances by Malik Champlain, Demetrius Chamblee, Jesse White, III, Kevin Booker, Jr., Keith Gaston, Keith Davis, Tariko Satterfeild, Sr., Elbert Gray and Jean Amos Lys. Included in this edition of the Northend Agents Fatherhood Edition, is an excerpt from each individual's Fatherhood Manologue and a link to their video taped performance.

The development of the Fatherhood Manologues allows men to come together behind the common goal of fatherhood. Each participant in the Manologues identifies a story from his life and works with the team to develop the story to have the greatest impact as a performance. Through weekly practice sessions, participants trim their stories, memorize and hone their delivery to performance level. After each practice session, "the group" stick around to talk about their personal fatherhood journey's, bond and shop for fathering skills to add to their toolbox. The process to develop the Fatherhood Manologues is therapeutic, empowering and supportive to the men that participate.

The performance Fatherhood Manologues is an exhilarating collection of short stories about fatherhood. Each story provides a unique point of view on being a father or being fathered. All the stories will take you on an emotional roller coaster that reminds the audience of the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The significance of having an involved father or the impact of father absenteeism is felt in each of the personally delivered stories. With societal stereotypes and social expectations wrapped tightly around the term "fatherhood" the Fatherhood Manologues is a much needed artistic expression of men creating their own narratives. Funny, entertaining, serious and sad, these stories will have you wanting to reconnect and repair broken relationships; as well as, reflect on the bond with your own father.

After the performance, a panel discussion is held to unpack the stories, answer questions and elaborate on the themes expressed in the stories. The panel discussion is also an opportunity for the audience to share what they felt through the performance and share the impact the Fatherhood Manologues had on them.

Look out for future Fatherhood Manologues once the COVID-19 crisis subsides. If you are interested in submitting a Fatherhood Manologue of your own or have any questions or comments, email it to us at info@themanhoodtree.com.

“the Fatherhood Manologues is a much needed artistic expression of men creating their own narratives.”



My Biggest Fan

By: Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad

When my kids were little every time I came home from work they would run to the door to greet me. I mean as soon as I opened the door they would just come running providing me with hugs, kisses and the cheer of “Daddy’s home, Daddy’s home”!!!

I would walk in the door and get jumped on like a ride. Sometimes one would be riding on my leg as I walked like Frankenstein and the other one would be scooped up in my arms getting chomped at until he or she screamed. Or, I would pick them up spin them around and then throw him or her on my shoulder like a bag of potatoes.

As I took off my coat and hung it in the closet, I would say “I’m going to get you”, and they would take off running with excitement, laughter and joy.

(To view the rest of this Fatherhood Manologue, visit: www.mypeoplecommunity.org/fatherhood-manologues.html)

My Son

By: Malik Champlain

"I have so much to teach you, you know father and son things; How I lwas going to name you my junior, but I wanted you to have your own wings!
Now listen, never shake a man’s hand sitting down. Keep a close circle and remember heavy is the head that wears the crown.

Always keep your word and look every man in the eye, and most of all young king when it comes to your Queen never tell a lie.

Now the lie you will hear in this country is that you are not enough, They will weaponize your skin and assume you guilty before your in handcuffs."

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“Always keep your word and look every man in the eye”





Fatherhood a Sacred Calling

By: Jean Amos Lys

I am a father! A proud father of four beautiful children-3 girls and a boy. I love my children so much, I love them more than life itself. They are the apple of my eyes. Every moment with them brings so much joy and every moment away from them breaks my heart. I love them so very much! I love them when they fail to listen, I love them when they fail to do their chores, I love them when they break my things, I love them when they talk me into spending money I did not want to spend.

My oldest daughter, Lucia, she wants to be an architect. Can you believe it, my baby wants to design affordable houses for low income families. Oh, I forgot to mention that I also have twin girls- Emma and Amelia. My Emma (I have been told she looks like me) wants to be a freedom fighter, a modern day Harriet Tubman. It melts my heart when she says "Daddy, let's stick it to the man". Amelia wants to be like Mommy, she wants to be a social worker and helps make the world a better place one kid at a time. My Son Nathaniel, well, he is only three years, I am not sure he knows what he wants to become yet, but my boy loves to dance and he loves his mamma.

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The Fatherless Checklist

By: Tariko Satterfield, Sr.

Many people have struggles on the journey of fatherhood. I've always wondered if it was because of the lack of fathers willing to emote. I had a father in my life but it seemed that my checklist was built from the things he didn't do. My life with my father was toxic and heart wrenching it produced fear, insecurity and uncertainty concerning my own abilities to provide. When life gave me lemons, my initial response was sour. Then I learned that everything was created to solve a problem. So I used his failures to make lemonade. This is "The Fatherless Checklist."

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Lessons from my father's generation

By: Jesse White III

“J

J”, “yes dad?” , “I need you to clean your room.” “Yes dad.”

“Dad, yes JJ”, “Why do I always have to clean my room?”

“Because that is your contribution to this family son. Understand this lesson, that if a man does not work, He shouldn't eat. Understand that if you work hard, you can play hard.”

“JJ”, “yes dad?” “Let's get ready to go to church.” “Yes dad.”

“Dad?”, Yes, JJ?” “Why do we always have to go to church?”

“Because you must understand son that there is someone GREATER than yourself. Understand that he's the only one greater than you. You have to take time to give him reverence. Understand that it is only through knowledge of Him that you understand who you are. Understand that you are the head and not the tail, you are above and not beneath, you are the lender and not the borrower, you are created in the image of God almighty because He is the Creator you are creative because He is king He has given you dominion over all the earth. You dominate, you are anointed, you are blessed, you are covered by the blood of Jesus.

(To view the rest of this Fatherhood Manologue, visit: www.mypeoplecommunity.org/fatherhood-manologues.html)

Three Magical Words

By: Kevin Booker, Jr.

You see my dad taught me that saying “I love you” is part of being a man. You should not be ashamed of saying those three magical words, I... Love... You. My father understood those three magical words very well, because as a child he rarely heard those words from his own parents. It became important to my father to tell his children those three magical words often, I...Love...You and truly mean it.

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“I... Love... You. My father understood those three magical words”





A Little Fatherly ADVICE

Things we should be talking to our kids about but don't

A Little Fatherly Advice is a discussion with fathers and their teenage children (12-18) around a list of over 100 topics we should be talking to our kids about but we don't. This group discussion is for fathers to share their thoughts on each topic, answer questions and hear the responses from their teens. Most importantly, the goal of the program is to open the door to increase communication and conversations between fathers and their teens during a time when most teens are trying to push away.

Host:

Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad and Demetrius Chamblee



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Online performance and new videos June 24, 2020.

Go to www.themanhoodtree.com for more Information

Coming Soon!



Father's Perseverance

By: Demetrius Chamblee

When I'm alone in my room, sometimes I stare at the wall, and in the back of my mind I hear my conscience call.
Telling me, "Stand up straight son, You my little professor, Hot Dog Look at my little man he looking sharp Today"
That was My Grandfather Johnlee Sherrod!!!!
He was the man who raised me
Taught me how to be a Father
Taught me how to be a man
Taught me what perseverance looks like.
He worked at Pratt & Whitney AND Drove the School Bus Full Time for over Thirty Years, THAT'S Perseverance.
He was Married to my Grandmother and she is NO JOKE, Now That's Perseverance as well

Now I'm a Father of Two Great Children, of my own Xyimea and Demetrius Junior
I love being their Father, but there are Times when I look back and realize if I didn't have my Grandfather I would have probably given up a few battles.
Lets Take a look at one.

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1-2-3 moments with my Dad

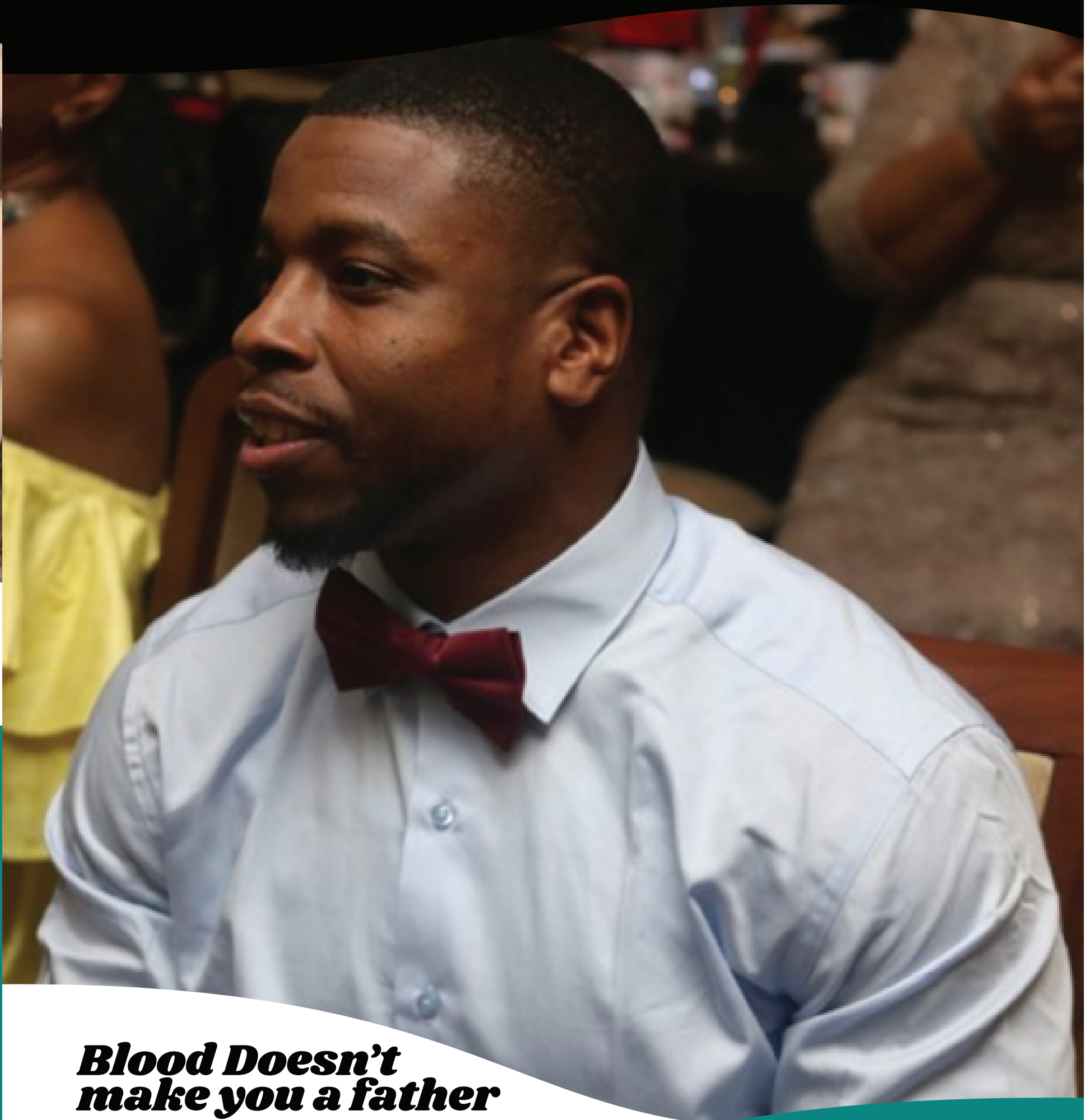
By: Elbert Gray

My Father taught me everything I know about a Man's responsibility to his family. The hard lessons he delivered have stuck with me throughout my life and are especially appreciated as I have begun to raise a family of my own.'

It is my pleasure to share the 3 most memorable moments I have with my father.

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Blood Doesn't make you a father

By: Keith Davis

Growing up as a kid, I never understood fatherhood I would think about being adopted and not knowing my biological father. About all the times I questioned if I looked like him, acted like him, what he did for work, does he know I exist, will I ever meet him. But now, When I think about fatherhood, I think about the man that raised me. A mans man. Rarely showed any emotion. Taught me to fish. Taught me a trade. Taught me toughness. Always took care of his family. The many times he said “Keith, now I done showed you how, do it like I did”, I realize now was his way of saying how much he loved me, even though I didn't come from him. I realize how much wisdom he has. How his dedication to his family and his craft is the exact thing that I wanna emulate. This man lights up every time he sees me and gives me a hug and I know how blessed I am to have been raised by such a great man. Blood doesn't make you a father, your contribution to a child's life and well being is what ultimately makes you a father.

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Just like you

By: Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad

All I ever wanted to do
Is be just like you
A good man like you
A strong father like you
Dedicated to my family
Just like you

If I ever did anything in this world
The least I could do
Is try to make things better
Just like you

When I look into the mirror
I see “Little Abdul”
Trying to be like his dad
Trying to fit in his shoes
Trying to help my people
Cause that’s what you’d do
If I could make you proud
There’s nothing else
I need to do

How can I make you understand
How I feel about you
You’re my hero
You’re my idol
Nobody else but you

All I ever wanted in this world
Is to be compared to you
Be smart like you
Do right like you
Grow a beard
Wear a kufi
Just like you

Even when we disagree
I think about you
How would you deal with the
problem?
And then that’s what I do
If you ever had concerns
If your words were getting through

I hope you see your words
In everything I do

When my Amir becomes a man
And he’s trying to make his way
I hope I’ve passed on knowledge
To get him through his days
I wish to stand by his side
As he ventures through life’s maze
Tell him if I see a trap
Or if everything’s OK
I pray he feels the same way
Exactly how I do
When he thinks of his father
And says I want to be
Just like you

I miss you Daddy!

MP

My People
Community Services and the
Muhammad family,
in collaboration with the
Greater Hartford Alliance of
Black Social Workers are
accepting applications for:



**The
Abdul-Rahmaan
Abd-Raheem
Muhammad
Scholarship**

All submissions due by
December 31, 2020.

For more information, visit:
mypeoplecommunity.org



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