

Gerst Family Young Fathers Program Online Awards

Thursday, June 16, 2020
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM



metropolitan family services™

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CO-PARENT OF THE YEAR

For men who are taking full responsibility for building a strong relationship with their partner to better serve as a father and positive role model to their children



CHRISTOPHER FURLOW came to the Young Fathers program wanting to provide for his daughter and improve his relationship with his child's mother. He initially thought these issues could be solved by simply getting a job, but he learned in the program that the solution runs deeper. Chris took the materials from the Healthy Relationships series home, and he and his child's mother worked together to build and repair their relationship, leading to more consistent and nurturing parenting on both their parts. Chris also sharpened his resume building and interviewing skills working with staff at Metropolitan's Financial Opportunity Center. Today he is not only employed, but also attending classes at Olive-Harvey College.

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

UNSUNG HERO

For fathers showing consistent dedication and hard work while overcoming past struggles



ANTHONY SHEPHERD was already a great father when he began the Young Fathers program, but he was simply unable to provide for his daughter with the life that he felt she deserved. Since he first joined our program, he has been very involved. He was always the first one at our series and the last one to leave. He was working through the series not just for himself, but for his daughter as well. Thanks to his efforts in the program, he is now employed full time and has his own apartment in Hyde Park. He is a loving and caring father, and often says everything he does is for his daughter. Anthony shares that he is honored to be his daughter's father.

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2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

FATHER OF THE YEAR

For fathers who exhibit, in spite of their everyday trials and tribulations, special dedication and commitment to improving the lives of their children



JOSEPH AVILA has demonstrated tremendous growth, not only as a participant, but also as a father. Since joining the Gerst Family Young Fathers Program, he has gained full-time employment at EZ Parking, enabling him to support his daughter. Throughout this year, Joe has constantly reached out and been involved with the program, from bringing his daughter to a field trip at the golf course to attending the Holiday Party and becoming the face of the program's flyers. Joe has always fought and struggled to be there for his daughter; he now has visitation rights that are being respected, and he is spending more time with his daughter.

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PROGRAM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Nathan Wright

THE GERST FAMILY YOUNG FATHERS PROGRAM

Doug Brown

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS - OUTSTANDING FATHERS

Nathan Wright and Edgar Barba

CO-PARENT OF THE YEAR

UNSUNG HERO

FATHER OF THE YEAR

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS - OUTSTANDING FATHERS

Xavier Thompson,
U.S. Bank

OPEN SHARE

We'll hear from our dads, Gary Gerst,
and the Young Fathers program staff

CLOSING REMARKS

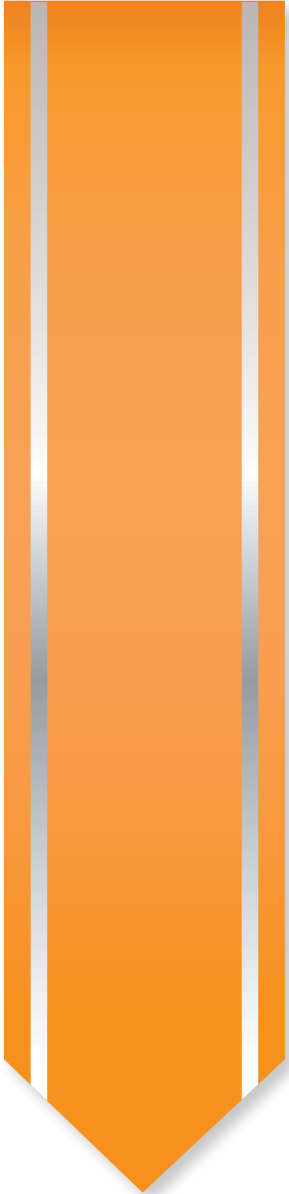
Gary Gerst and Doug Brown

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

SONNY THATCH – Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society
IMOGENE METCALFE – Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society
TYSHAWN LOVE – Young Fathers Job Coordinator
DARLENE ANICETO – Young Fathers Intern

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CONGRATULATIONS!



The Gerst Family Young Fathers Program at Metropolitan Family Services is a community-based program that focuses on:

- Increasing young fathers' access to the labor force.
- Improving young fathers' financial literacy.
- Creating new and strengthening existing support systems for young fathers.
- Strengthening the relationship between young fathers and their children.

The core component of the program consists of a two-week job development and fathering series. This is followed by:

- Case Management – Program participants meet with a case manager on a weekly basis to work on meeting goals in several areas including education, employment, health, social skills, child care, and financial management.
- Monthly Fathers Network Meeting – The Fathers Network meeting is a time for fathers to share their experiences in finding and gaining employment with other fathers. It is also a forum for fathers to discuss obstacles they have had in searching for employment and finding answers or strategies for overcoming those obstacles.
- Father-Child Activities – The bi-monthly father and child activity is often an educational trip for the children, the goal of which is to enable the father to spend quality time with his child.

www.metrofamily.org

Scholarships for Children

The Gerst Family Young Fathers Scholarship Award is given to the designated children of each of the three father awardees. This \$1,000 investment will provide an education fund for each designated child to be used to promote the child's special interests, private school, or ongoing education.