

Media Advisory



ATTN: Assignment Editors and Producers
For Immediate Release

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It's Time to 'Dad Up' Regarding Father Absence: Talk With Fatherhood Experts, Athletes and Civic Leaders

WHY: Less than a week from Father's Day, there is a growing crisis in many homes across our country:

- Nation-wide nearly 24 million children grow up in father-absent homes.
- They are more likely to live in poverty, drop out of school, use/abuse drugs and alcohol, become teen parents, commit crimes and become incarcerated.
- Almost 1.7 million babies are born annually out of wedlock, with an estimated 570,000 not having a father named on the birth certificate.
- Father absence cuts across all ethnic and socio-economic groups and is prevalent in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Contrary to popular belief, there are more white children growing up in father-absent homes than any other group.
- **Father absence isn't someone else's problem, it's everyone's problem. When kids don't reach their full potential they may become dependent on government programs, which may lead to a variety of other social problems.**

WHAT: TEAMDAD is partnering with more than **300 father-friendly organizations** across the US dedicated to helping men be better fathers. **Great Dads Coin tops list of Gifts for Dad in 2012**, as way to honor dads and help those without dads.

WHERE: Interviews available by phone, in studio, live and recorded; depending on schedule

WHEN: Subject to Schedule and Availability, from June 11th to Sunday, June 17th, Father's Day

WHO:

- **Peggy and David Hirsch**, of TEAMDAD, who will visit the White House on June 13, 2012 to be recognized in a **Champions of Change** event on fatherhood in America.
- **Kevin Kirberg**, president, Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI)
- Renown entertainer and comedian; 2011 IFI Honoree Father, **Tom Dreesen**
- **Desmond Clark**, Former NFL Chicago Bears TE; founder of 88 Wayz Youth Organization, and IFI Ricky Byrdsong Award recipient
- **Tony Schumacher**, NHRA US Army Top Fuel Pilot/TEAMDAD Spokesman

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