



Press Release

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Local Dad Receives Extra Support From Fathering Programs

Vancouver, WA – Every parent needs help raising their children in today's world. Economic hardships, holding down a job (sometimes two), and busy schedules are only a few of the pressures that moms and dads face while trying to be a good parent. There is an increase in the need for programs that help dads specifically take more of an active role in the upbringing of their children. Dads are becoming more and more equipped at what can be said is the world's toughest job – raising children.

Rick McGanty's job prevented him from finding the time and energy to take an active role in his children's development. With the support of his wife Sandy, Rick began attending parenting classes at Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) to build on his skills and be not only a great dad – but the best dad he could be to Trinity (age 5) and Landon (age 2).

Through the Super Dads Saturdays and Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs Rick learned about his children's development, asked questions about parenting, and socialized with other fathers. He became more informed about his children's social, emotional, intellectual, language, and motor development as well as ways to encourage healthy growth and disciplinary tools. Since the Super Dads program is on Saturdays, and the PAT program staff provide in-home services, Rick was able to spend quality time with his kids at day and time that worked with his schedule.

"Rick realizes how important it is to spend time with his kids. There isn't any better gift to give your children than time. That's what you remember as adults, not what they give you but the time they spend with you. Like, 'My kid doesn't need the big RV, they need me,' " says Jess Robertson, CHSW Family Advocate.

Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) - Vancouver offers resources for dads and men in Clark County and the surrounding areas. Although each program is specifically tailored for the needs of men, these services are available for anyone to attend. In all programs, CHSW strives to actively involve dads and encourage positive male involvement in the lives of children.

- **Super Dads Saturday!** is a monthly playgroup that offers activities for dads, uncles, grandfathers, etc. to engage in fun and learning with the children in their lives.
- **Parents as Teachers** is a curriculum-focused home visiting program provides parents with early childhood, school readiness, and family support information and services.
- **Conscious Fathering®** is a one-time class for new or expectant fathers that teaches the basics of caring for newborns and supports men in creating a healthy relationship with the child's mother.
- **Dads' Tool Box** is a weekly drop-in opportunity for dads to visit with a family educator to discuss specific parenting questions and to explore community resources.

"It's really important to give kids attention they deserve when they are young," says Rick. "They grow up so fast. These programs give me a better understanding of how to parent, and they helped me to connect better with my kids."

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Founded in 1896, Children's Home Society of Washington is the largest statewide children's organization dedicated to providing exceptional and innovative services to children and families. CHSW supports over 40,000 children and families each year. The Vancouver area locations offers Early Learning, Child and Family Counseling, and Family Support services to Clark County and surrounding areas. To find out a class schedule for all the programs listed above, call (360) 695-1325 or visit www.childrenshomesociety.org.