



## LEARNING POINTS

- The Importance of Fatherhood
- It Takes A Real Man to Be A Dad
- A Father's Responsibility
- Becoming an Emotionally Healthy Parent
- Raising an Emotionally Healthy Child
- Discipline
- Raising a Physically Healthy Child

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Miracle Hands and Y.O.U.T.H., Incorporated also use the ARISE Fatherhood teaching curriculum. For more information about ARISE contact [www.ariselife-skills.org](http://www.ariselife-skills.org)

## MIRACLE HANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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### Current and Former Sponsors:

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Justice Grants Administration

Universal Madness  
Urban Wear

# Y O U N G

# F A T H E R S

# I N I T I A T I V E



- **MISSION STATEMENT**

Miracle Hands Community Development Corporation (MHCDC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization located in wards 4, 5 and 8 of the District of Columbia. MHCDC was founded in 1998 by Mr. Cornell Jones, its current Executive Director, with a mission to address the multiple socio-economic needs of ex-offenders and at risk youth. Miracle Hands works diligently to prepare for, plan and develop programs to mitigate the re-entry phenomena and improve re-entry outcomes as well as utilize sound intervention methods and approaches to prevent youth violence and delinquency and encourage personal growth and responsibility.

All programs are rendered in a belief construct that recognizes the self worth of the individual regardless of their present circumstance or need. Miracle Hands strives to assist the individual to achieve his/her maximum potential through the provision of helpful resources, programs, training, employment and objective driven processes which provide opportunities for self growth and benchmarks individual progress and development. Behavior modification is intrinsic to the success of each individual and Miracle Hands recognizes that successful outcomes can not be accomplished without community support. Therefore the community is educated and informed about the needs of its clients – this fosters tolerance, compassion and positive involvement.

- **WHY DO WE NEED THIS PROGRAM?**

It may be a commonly used adage, but it holds true that “the youth are our future”. Many of today’s alarming trends stem from the present state and condition of urban youth and more specifically, young men. The Young Fathers Initiative, (YFI) is a program born out of hearts of compassion for young males who are struggling with the challenges of life. The YFI is a collaborative effort between Miracle Hands and Young Old United Through Help (Y.O.U.T.H), Incorporated, a non-profit organization founded by Mr. Earl Robinson-EI. The founders of these two organizations, having faced and overcome many of the same challenges of today’s youth, combined their experience, understanding and insight into the mind of today’s young males and developed a program to address one of the most profound impacts on today’s young males – crossing the thresh-hold to fatherhood. Whether planned or not, becoming a father is one of the most valuable legacies in the cycle of life and this fact must be imparted on today’s young males. The absence of the proper parental influence of the father has a dire impact on the community:

- 63% of youth suicides are from homes that are absent of the father’s influence
- 71% of all high school dropouts are from homes that are absent of the father’s influence

- 85% of youth in prison grew up in fatherless homes
- 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes

- **CHALLENGES OF FATHERHOOD**

When compared with households where the father is present or in environments where the father still has a measurable influence on his children, children without the parental influence of the father are -- 5 times more likely to commit suicide, 32 times more likely to run away, 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders, 14 times more likely to commit rape, 9 times more likely to drop out of high school, 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances and 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

Children need the proper influence of their father in their lives! This means that the proper cultivation of the mind of today’s young male is extremely important. Miracle Hands and Y.O.U.T.H. Incorporated have put together a program that incorporates best practices, core programmatic elements and grassroots experience. This collaboration brings an invaluable resource of culturally appropriate knowledge, skills, coping mechanisms and understanding that will help young men understand, weather and responsibly transition into the role of being a father.