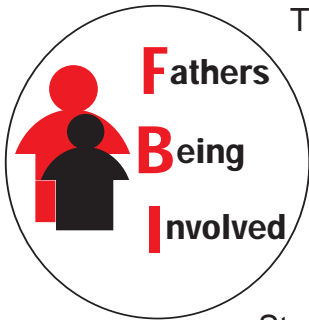


# FBI

## Fathers Being Involved



The Fort Wayne Area Council (FWAC) PTA has launched a new program focused on increasing male involvement. The F.B.I. Program promotes Fathers Being Involved at each of the 62 Fort Wayne Community School sites, as well as other PTA sites around the city and the surrounding areas. This membership program is geared towards fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and any other male figure in a student's education. Male community members are also encouraged to join.

Studies show that students perform better when both mothers and fathers are both involved in the education of their children. Men and women think differently and bring different perspectives and skills to the school and PTA activities. School communities and PTA's thrive when both men and women participate. Yet men remain a largely untapped resource. This program seeks to combat this phenomenon. FWAC PTA President Julie Klingenberger introduced the program to the FWAC in June, 2009, with remarkable results. The greater Fort Wayne area saw a membership surge of nearly 30%. Pockets of F.B.I. Teams were engaged city-wide.



F.B.I. is simply PTA marketed for men. The new acronym and logo seem to erase the age old June Clever, PTA mom image, that is locked within most men's memory banks. Local leaders were asked to invite 25 males to join their unit.

They were also called upon to rethink their current programming; to find opportunities with male appeal in their already existing activities. Because we all recognize members are only numbers if they are not fully engaged. Validating these men and their worth to our schools is a key component of this program. Engagement is necessary to harvest a true home/school partnership.



To urge more men to join local PTA's through F.B.I. the FWAC reached out to community sponsors to offer each male member a "Dad's Bag" filled with dad-centered coupons. The coupons included activities they could enjoy with their child as well as discounts on tickets to sporting events, car maintenance, local eateries and golf courses. The Dad's Bag is given to each F.B.I. team member upon joining. Local units were encouraged to include a schedule of school related events in the bag as well. To ensure team members had ample time to adjust their schedules for F.B.I. targeted school events.

Many F.B.I. Teams sport apparel with their school name and the F.B.I. logo, when they are volunteering within the building or on school grounds. Many men believe it serves as a signal to the staff and the students they are there in an official volunteer capacity. The FWAC offers Black Men's Polo Shirts with the F.B.I. (Father's Being Involved) logo embroidered in white, on the upper left corner for \$22.00 (SM-XL) and \$24.00 (2XL-4XL).

For support in implementing F.B.I. in your school please don't hesitate to contact Julie Klingenberger at [jklingenberger04@comcast.net](mailto:jklingenberger04@comcast.net) or Tony Distelrath at [distelrath@verizon.net](mailto:distelrath@verizon.net).

