



Parents Are The Key
PTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 25, 2009
FORT WAYNE AREA COUNCIL PTA SUPPORTS FATHERS BEING INVOLVED (F.B.I.)

Fort Wayne, IN, November 25, 2009 – The Fort Wayne Area Council (FWAC) PTA has launched a new program for the 2009-2010 school year, focused on increasing male involvement. The F.B.I. Program promotes **F**athers **B**eing **I**nvolved at each of the 52 Fort Wayne Community School sites, as well as other PTA sites around the city and 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 school and PTA activities. School communities and PTAs 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.

To urge more men to join local PTAs the FWAC has reached out to community sponsors to offer each male member a “goodie bag” filled with dad-centered coupons. In addition, the FWAC will also host events geared towards dads and their kids, including an F.B.I. night at the Roller Dome on March 22, 2010. Chairperson Tony Distelrath sees a need for male-centered events to keep dads engaged in their student’s education. “Our students especially our male students need strong male roles models who make education a priority,” Distelrath says. “By increasing male involvement through our FBI program we will have a significant impact on our students' success. We strongly encourage our male members to volunteer at their schools (eat lunch with your student, attend a field trip, attend a PTA meeting) and get involved.” For more information about the FBI Program, log onto the FWAC website at www.fortwayneareacouncilpta.org/FBI

**The mission of the PTA is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children, and to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children and encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation. The FWAC PTA serves Fort Wayne and surrounding areas. The Council serves as a resource to local units and leaders. The Council also oversees the FWAC Clothing Bank in partnership with FWCS.

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FWAC Community Partners Include:

Wendy’s of Fort Wayne
Jiffy Lube
Fort Wayne Mad Ants
Bandido’s
Texas Roadhouse
Crazy Pinz
Roller Dome Skate Centers