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Milwaukee County and DCF team with Brewers to honor fathers

(MILWAUKEE) – A group of special dads celebrated an early Father's Day with their kids and got to see the Brewers take on the Kansas City Royals at Miller Park on Monday, thanks to an innovative program aimed at engaging non-custodial fathers with their children.

The fathers, participants in Milwaukee County's Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood project, were given free tickets to the game through the Brewers Buddies Program in recognition of the positive steps that they have made to improve their parenting skills, and provide both emotional and financial support to their children.

"I'd like to thank the Brewers, our public and nonprofit partners, and most especially our participant fathers for stepping up to support Milwaukee families." Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said. "A strong community is built on strong families, and I'm proud of the impact that the Fatherhood project has in strengthening that foundation."

The Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood is a joint effort between the Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Services, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), My Father's House, Next Door Foundation, Community Advocates, UMOS, the Center for Self-Sufficiency, and Centro Legal and funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The project takes a community-centered approach to eliminating the barriers to responsible fatherhood that can be all too common in urban communities like Milwaukee. Through comprehensive one-stop-shops, non-custodial fathers enrolled in the program can receive parenting education, work readiness assistance, job skills training, housing resource assistance, substance abuse and mental health services, and marriage preparation education in order to provide fathers the support and resources needed to make a positive impact in their children's lives.

"This weekend we observe Fathers' Day, so it's a perfect time to recognize these men who are embracing their responsibilities and working to play a meaningful role in their children's lives," said DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. "The Pathways program is the

type of community based effort that not only strengthens families, but benefits the entire community.”

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