



## WASHINGTON STATE FATHERS NETWORK

To be put on our mailing list or to receive information about the **Washington State Fathers Network**, please contact us at:

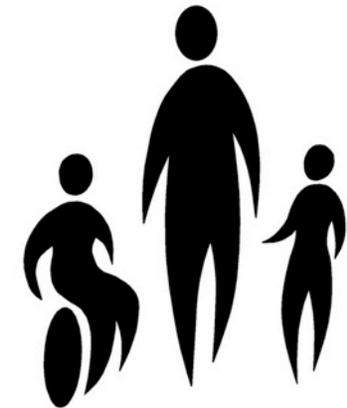
### Facts About Fathers Participating in WSN

- Fathers reported a decrease in isolation.
- Fathers increased their access to resources and useful organizations.
- Fathers felt increasingly confident about being a father.
- Fathers used healthy strategies for coping with stress.
- Fathers were very satisfied with their participation in the WSN.

WSFN  
Kindering Center  
16120 NE 8th Street  
Bellevue, WA 98008-3937  
(425) 653-4286

visit our web site:  
[www.fathersnetwork.org](http://www.fathersnetwork.org)

The **Washington State Fathers Network** is a program of the Kindering Center (Bellevue, Washington) and funded by the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs, Washington State Department of Health, and private donations.



**A POWERFUL VOICE FOR FATHERS  
AND FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS**



The **Washington State Fathers Network (WSFN)** is a non-profit, statewide program that advocates for and provides connection and resources for all men and their families who have children with special needs. The mission of the Network is to promote fathers as crucially important people in their



children and families' lives. The **WSFN** firmly believes that men are superb resources for each other and that fathers have special needs of their own when it comes to raising a child with a chronic illness or developmental disability.

Founded in 1993, the **Washington State Fathers Network** currently is comprised of 15 local Fathers Network groups scattered throughout Washington involving over 2,000 men and providers. The **WSFN** provides support and resources in a variety of ways.

Some examples include sponsoring evening and weekend programs specifically designed for men involved in the lives of children with special needs and hosting regional and statewide conferences that provide places for men to meet and exchange ideas with other men facing similar challenges.

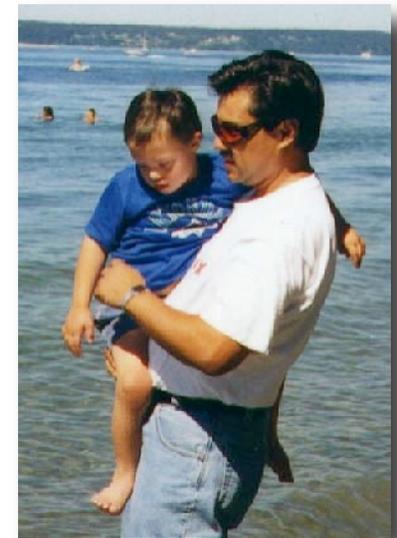
We know that many men feel isolated and removed from services for their children. They want to be increasingly involved and knowledgeable in decisions affecting their families. All of us in the **Washington State Fathers Network** share a deep commitment and love for the health, well-being, and education of our children.

Comments from men involved in the **WSFN** are indicative of the important role that the Network plays in the lives of fathers in their challenge to care for and love their child. Here are a few of those comments:

*The Fathers Network made me realize that I'm not alone. The fellows in this group are my heroes and I am honored to know them and be a part of this or-*

*ganization. This group threw me a lifeline when I really needed someone. I will always remember that.*

*It's nice to meet with other dads and to share my experiences. Everyone is accepting and some have given good advice. The meetings have been wonderful for emotional support.*



*I love the talking between other dads in the Fathers Network because we have something in common, We All Have A Special Child We Love A Lot!!!*

