

# Chicago Tribune

## Dear Readers:

Father's Day is a special day of the year to spend with the ones you love and reflect on the importance of family. To thrive, children need love, support and guidance. An active presence in the lives of our families is Job One for all fathers.

Research shows that "involved fathers provide practical support in raising children and serve as models for their development. Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior." On Father's Day, we are reminded of how important the role of a father is to his children. Fatherhood is a job I take very seriously.

As a proud father to three children, I have learned that many times actions speak louder than words. That is one reason why I choose to get involved in community organizations that support children and their families. There are many organizations in the Chicagoland area that support our youth. Two that I hold dear to my heart are Metropolitan Family Services and Illinois Fatherhood Initiative.

I encourage you to take an active role in the organizations that appeal most to you. Giving back to the community with our personal time and treasure will make the entire Chicago region vibrant, healthy and whole. Investing in our children now will yield dividends for generations to come.

Happy Father's Day to all Dads and Father figures.



**Tony Hunter, Publisher – Chicago Tribune**

*Tony Hunter was honored earlier this month as one of three IFI "Fathers of the Year" along with U.S. Congressman Danny Davis and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.*