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Caddo Parish Commission,  
Honorable Commissioners  
Government Plaza 505 Travis Street,  
1st Floor, Shreveport, LA, 71101  
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Re: **"Dinner With My Dad, An Evening of Celebrating Fatherhood"**

Dear Caddo Parish Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Andre Elias, and I am writing to you on behalf of Children of God, Inc, and PRIORITY, INTENTIONS, PRACTICAL EXCHANGES (PIPES) Inc. We are two local non-profit organizations with the mission of impacting the lives of local families and stakeholders by positively addressing challenges with resources and activities to prevent criminal behavior. We accomplish our goals with resources, training initiatives, collaborations and activities with concerned citizens, The Partnership of Children of God, Inc (C.O.G.) and Priority Intentions, Practical Exchanges (PIPES) focuses on crime prevention and re-entry efforts and this event celebrates fatherhood, offers quality time, builds memories, and instills positive empowerment via recognition and appreciation.

This inaugural event, "***Dinner With My Dad***," addresses the launch of the Fatherhood Initiative, a national fatherhood family-focused initiative that aims to bring dads and youth together with the community to uplift through positive interactions. This crime prevention initiative event aims to decrease criminal activity through learning techniques, decreasing emotional and behavioral problems, and lowering juvenile incarceration. The initiative provides an alternative to juvenile detention centers, break fatherlessness, decrease the prison pipeline, increase awareness. It teaches core values that help decrease drop out rates, self reflection and determination, while supporting father involvement, strengthening family ties, addressing poverty, economic stability, and contributing to society. We believe that the Caddo Parish Commission shares our commitment to address crime prevention for juveniles. Therefore, we are reaching out to request financial support for Dinner With My Dads from the Caddo Parish Commission.

*Highlighting Fatherhood:* Throughout the event, we'll shine a spotlight on the incredible fathers in our community. Through heartfelt speeches, testimonials, and perhaps even a special father-child talent show, we'll celebrate the love, sacrifice, and dedication that fathers embody each and every day.

*Giving Back:* But this event isn't just about celebration; it's also about making a difference. As we gather to honor fathers, let's also extend our support to those in need. Through various fundraising initiatives such as auctions, raffles, and donation drives, we'll raise funds to support causes that uplift and empower fathers and families in our community.

Let's continue to cherish and support the fathers and father figures in our lives, not just on Father's Day, but every day. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and create a brighter future for all families.

Nearly 1 in 4 children, or 17.8 Million are without a biological, step or adoptive father in the home and this absence negatively impacts children in our area. This initiative addresses the challenges of fathers and fatherless youth and provides resources, data, referral and opportunities to prevent youth crime.

#### ABOUT CHILDREN OF GOD AND PIPES

Children of God, Inc.(No-Entry focus) is a 501c3 organization, located in Caddo Parish. For five years, the organization has been successful at providing support to at-risk youth in Caddo Parish with crisis intervention, conflict resolution, financial literacy training, job placement, and personal development. COG has been in existence since 2020. Accomplishments include male mentoring program, job training and placement, giveaways , cloth and toy drive, Feast in Illinois Apartment - Clear Rising New Zion formerly Illinois Apartment, partner with Sheryl Williams Weekend Event (basketball tournament and camp, Family Fun Day at the Park - Doug Williams Park on Kennedy Drive. Martin Luther King Day in Chris Hayes Park. History lessons, games, toys, feed and fellowship. Mother and Father's Day Event by honoring the parents in the Projects. Program, Celebration, honor mother with a rose and feed mothers. Use fliers, Manager and stakeholders get the word out. We do Mooretown Legends Awards (MLA) which(show people from the community - can go on and do great things). Meet and Greet for Honorees and family, Give trophies and tell what they are doing. Black Tie Formal Event -. Church Services every second service of the month. 5 Day Revival every September, All Saints Carnival, donate cakes, candy and food donation - October at the church. We do something every month. We have touched the lives of more than 2400 people in Caddo Parish.

PIPES- (Re-Entry Focus)Advocates for criminal justice reform through letter-writing campaigns, prayer vigils, policy changes, assisting formerly incarcerated and incarcerated with empowering programs. Also, collaborating with local, state, and National agencies.PIPES has been in existence for three years and has impacted the lives of more than 1500 youth and families.

#### PIPES ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Assisted with 15 get freed from prison, 20 youth being prevented from entering juvenile detention center, Mentoring 120 kids presently (Curriculum Based), Speaking before the United Nations Judiciary Committee in Washington, headed by U.S. Senator Cory Booker (*Ending Solitary Confinement and Ending Prison Discrimination May 2024*), Speak before Louisiana Legislators on numerous committees surrounding prison topics), Providing transportation for families to go on

prison visits, Advocacy for the incarcerated, Hosted Town Hall Meetings with Elected Officials to make our City safer, Hosted Numerous Prayer Vigils, Stop the Violence Rallies, Pivotal in preventing and mitigating street wars , Provided money, clothes, resources, Feed the Homeless for two years (Downtown across from Court House), Host a clothes Giveaway , Get Out the Vote (Community Outreach), Helped with obtaining of job/placement, and support group - parenting discussions.

Here is a brief overview of how the funds will be used:

Our Itemized list of expenses, including venue rental, chairs, tables, AV, performers, special guest presenters, food and beverage, equipment, supplies, marketing materials, media buys, staff, shirts, software and decorations

We are requesting **\$15,000** to cover our event cost from the Commission with a total budget cost of \$19,390

We are confident that *Dinner With My Dad* will have a positive impact on our community by meeting anticipated outcomes or benefits, such as crime prevention and diversion, promoting family values, fostering community engagement, and supporting local NGOs. With your support, we can make this event a success and create lasting benefits for our community.

We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and accountability. Rest assured that all funds received will be used transparently and efficiently to achieve the objectives outlined in our proposal. We would be happy to provide any additional information or documentation required to facilitate the funding process.

Information:

DATE: June 16, 2024, Father's Day

TIME: 5:30pm

LOCATION: Morning Star Baptist Church | "*The Event Center*"

Impact:

As a result of the event, this will happen.: Social Impact (positive influence to reduce crime), Economic Impact (to place men in a position that are unemployed, give training and in-demand jobs that need to be filled, Crime Prevention Impact (reconnected back to fathers, and law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for considering our request for financial support. We greatly appreciate Caddo Parish Commissions dedication to supporting initiatives that enrich our community. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 318-564-5804 or [andrelazar29@yahoo.com](mailto:andrelazar29@yahoo.com)

We look forward to the possibility of partnering with the Caddo Parish Commission to bring "*Dinner With My Dad*" to fruition and create a memorable experience for our community members.

Sincerely,

Andre Elias

Andre Elias, President  
Children of God, Inc.