

The Conversation

November 2024

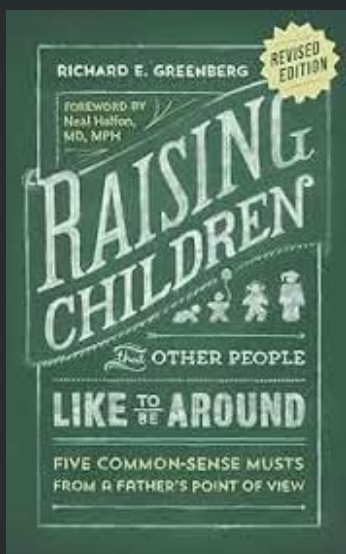
Mission:

To bring a revival of the fundamental role of fatherhood to today's family unit.

Vision:

To see loving, engaged fathers at the core of every family unit, and support for all those serving in the role of father-figures.

Books we like



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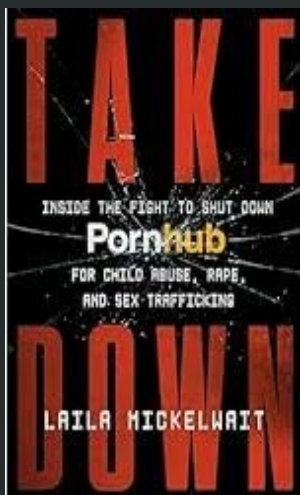
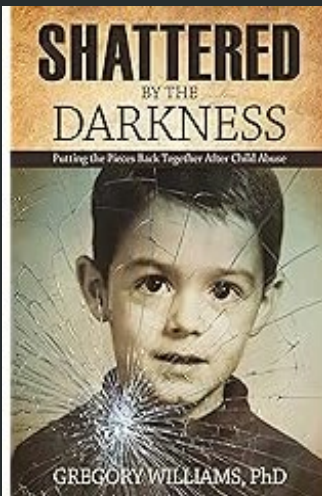
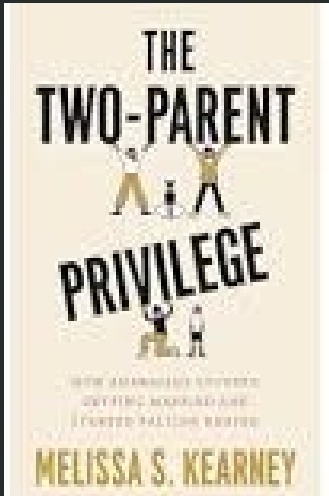
patrick@father-con.org

The Founder's Conversation Starter

"Fatherhood is a journey filled with challenges and triumphs, and this conference is a testament to the dedication and commitment of fathers who strive to be the best they can be." Carson Councilman Cedric Hicks, Sr.

After months of effort, the hard-fought vision for Father-Con 2024 is now behind us but the ripples have just begun. I am profoundly grateful for every volunteer, board member, presenter, resource organization and attendee. The expertise, passion, commitment to the long-term health of the family and children, was awe-inspiring and the testimonies of participants breathtaking. The resounding response of all those who came was that Father-Con is doing something absolutely necessary as it goes to the root of so many of our social challenges and threats to our children. I could not agree more.

My message this year was we are all on the road to Damascus, being given a chance to get knocked off our horse, be temporarily blinded, hear the voice of God, and then open our eyes to see our lives with a freshness that inspires walking with greater purpose and presence in our families and for our children. Sometimes we need just such a restart and our speakers this year provided a nudge in that direction. The messages of so many of our presenters encouraged us to get on our feet after being knocked down, finding a clearer vision, and heading back on the road with the determination to bring about change: Sam Chapman and Maria Ortega whose teenage sons both died of fentanyl now lead the way for responsible legislation and raise awareness for parents to better protect their children; Jewell Baraka whose childhood of being familial trafficked into the porn industry pulled back the curtain of the lie that pornography is victimless entertainment; Mark Maciel held out hope to men post incarceration, and Bernard Kufan Cooper, a champion of rising from violence and a wrongful conviction for murder and spending 25 years in prison, shared about working to disrupt the slide from an environment of hopeless resignation, to overcoming. Calvary Life pastor Chet Lowe illuminated Faith and Fatherhood, and Susan Patterson and Tera Hilliard shared about human trafficking in our communities today and what can be done. Acclaimed filmmaker Julia Verdin brought her award-winning film Maya. Sam Serio presented from a therapist perspective



on facing temptations today. Andy Chavez, Serafin Serrano, Stephen Salgado, Juan Camargo Lopez, Juan Saldano Gabriel Lopez and teen fathers Eddie and Angel joined Tom Morris and Dr. Carrol, Kendra Tankersely-Davis and her husband Jerome, Mark Winkler and Stephen Cagle passionately poured their hearts into presentations, some in Spanish and English, on healing and hope for men and fathers and families. Vince Beresford wrapped up with a powerful message of the role of fathers in the lives of their children. I am so proud of the hard work that made all of this unfold at Cal State Dominguez Hills, October 11 -12th. If you were there, I thank you for valuing fatherhood and our families with your presence, and if you missed this year, I beg you not to miss Father-Con 2025. Our future is very much in the hands of our fathers and the support we provide for their success. It takes both men and women to value fatherhood and prioritize the thriving of our children, to get back up on our horses and gallop into the future we have the ability to choose.



Patrick Erlandson – Father & new grandfather
Founder: Father-Con and See it. End it. Film & Arts Festival

We can only do this work, with the support of donors and sponsors.
Make a world of difference – for our children and the communities they live in. Give generously to Father-Con



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“More than just a second parent or an extra set of hands, fathers are one of the best child development resources we have, and if we are going to give children the best start in life, we all need to fully recognize and utilize this role.”

UNICEF Chief of Early Childhood Development Dr. Pia Britto.

COMING OF AGE ON A PORN SET

TRAFFICKED IN PORN AT 14

*"Sometimes in the fight you find the warrior
you always were."*



BY JEWELL BARAKA

Foreword by John Richmond
Former US Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking

MEN! FIGHT FOR ME

The Role of Authentic Masculinity
in Ending Sexual Exploitation
and Trafficking



Alan Smyth • Jessica Midkiff

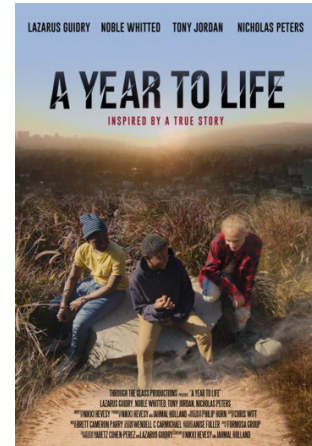
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Father-Con 2024



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Cal State University Dominguez Hills
Carson, Ca 90747



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ARTISTS FOR CHANGE



Pictures of Father-Con 2024



