



## Building Brighter Futures Through Fatherhood



“I’m blessed to be back in my child’s life after taking the necessary steps to get here. I was so grateful to see Jamahl right after being back in my daughter’s life, and I cried tears of happiness. I’m thankful to God for doing for me the things I can’t do for myself, and to Jamahl for being an awesome mentor and brother in Christ.” – Brent

Dads can make a dramatic difference in their children’s lives, but for some fathers, being present and engaged can feel out of reach, even when the desire is there.

That was the case with Brent, a Summit County father who missed milestones in his child’s life while he was incarcerated. During one of the lowest moments of his life, Brent began the work of turning things around with the support of Jamahl Id-Deen and the Early Childhood Resource Center’s 24/7 Dad program, an initiative designed to help fathers better understand and embrace the critical role they play in their children’s lives.

Jamahl and Brent reunited during the Summit County Father’s Walk as Brent was walking his daughter to her elementary school. In that moment, Brent shared how he was putting the lessons from the 24/7 Dad program into practice, rebuilding a once-broken relationship by showing up for his daughter with consistency, intention, and confidence he never believed were possible.

The emotional reunion reminded Jamahl of the meaningful impact our work has throughout the community.

“I regularly meet fathers just like Brent, whom I’ve walked through our 24/7 Dad sessions during some of the lowest moments of their lives and have come out on the other side with renewed purpose,” Jamahl said. “They share with me how they now carry new mindsets, stronger relationships, and a deepened understanding of what it means to be present, consistent, and engaged fathers.

“Each encounter is a reminder that these changes are real and lasting. These fathers are not only transforming their own lives but also shaping brighter futures for their children. Seeing their growth firsthand is both humbling and inspiring, and it reinforces a simple but powerful truth: real change is happening here in Summit County, one Dad at a time.”

Every year, the Early Childhood Resource Center supports more than 450 fathers through programs focused on strengthening families and building healthier communities. To learn more about our Fatherhood Services, visit our website. <https://www.ecresourcecenter.org/wba/content/families/fatherhood-services/>