

A Proposal for a Community Organization HIGH LEVEL 2

A

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you requesting support to establish a new community organization for single fathers in need. It will be a self-help group destined to support the many single fathers in and around our community.

The new community organization, which is called Friends for Fathers, will be designed to provide fathers with the resources they might need throughout their parenting experience. Also Friends for Fathers will supply their cliental with motivational classes, self-help groups and any counselling needed.

Due to the rising population of single fathers, there is a great need for an organization that will support them throughout their hard and sometimes frustrating times.

The reasons for why this problem exists is threefold. Anthropologically speaking, fathers have never really been recognized as the main caregiver for children. Fathers have almost always been viewed as "on the side lines" in the upbringing of their offspring. In retrospect, it has been instinctive for children to go to their mothers when in need.

Psychologically speaking, throughout the centuries a child's bond has primarily been with his or her mother. The bond between a mother and her child is unique and has created a feeling of alienation on the fathers behalf. The father then starts to feel isolated. He knows that he probably will never share that kind of bond with the child as the mother does.

Sociologically speaking, mothers have always been favoured over fathers. This has been clearly displayed throughout our legal system. When it comes to a custody case, the judge usually rules in favour of the mother. Only if a mother is totally unfit to raise the child, the child would then go to the father. Even when it comes to schooling, mothers have usually been the ones doing all the dirty work. Whether it be attending parent-teacher interviews, helping out with homework and going to parents night.

Friends for Fathers will seek to address the problem from an anthropological point of view by making people more aware that our culture is changing. Fathers are becoming more and more involved in their children's lives due to the increase of separations and divorce. More fathers are on their own now then ever before.

From a psychological point of view Friends for Fathers wants to provide fathers with comfort and support. Whether it be lending a caring ear or even a shoulder to cry on, Friends for Fathers wants to be there for their extra special cliental. Friends for fathers wants to help

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single fathers build confidence and self-esteem so that they can learn how to deal with their new found discomfort. From a sociological point of view our organization wants to further educate fathers about their new found roles. Providing lectures in a group setting would accomplish such briefing. Setting up hotlines and call in shows would also help out our single dads. Our organization would also be available via the internet. Our web page would provide our patrons with organization information. Links to other parenting sites. A page specially devoted to letters that are sent in by single fathers with their stories and many more interesting sections.

As I have clearly states throughout my letter. There is an immense need for such an organization as Friends for Father. Single fathers have voices and, in saying that, they should be heard. Such an organizations would try to fill that void a lot of our single dads are feeling today. Our society is now just learning to accept such a concepts a single father, and Friends for Father wants to be part of that.

I predict that Friends for Fathers will have a great and positive impact on our community as a whole. It will ensure a sense of belonging in our single dads which in turn will create a happier more close nit community. The single fathers in our community would have a place to go when in need and always someone to talk to. Our cliental will feel loved and appreciated no matter what their situation is.

Sincerely yours,

Bibliography:

Hawkes, Charles et. al. Images of Society. 1
Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2001

HIGH LEVEL 2

Teacher’s Notes**Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student identifies and describes the need for a self-help group for single fathers with some accuracy, stating that “Due to the rising population of single fathers, there is a great need for an organization that will support them throughout their hard and sometimes frustrating times”. The student recognizes that being a single father is a difficult task, but does not identify or address specific needs.
- The student describes the proposed organization with some clarity. For example, the purpose of the organization is “to provide fathers with the resources they might need throughout their parenting experience”. The student outlines some of the functions of the proposed organization (e.g., “providing lectures”, “setting up hotlines and call in shows”), but the actual focus of the organization’s activities is unclear, since they appear to combine elements of a social support group and a parenting skills program. The student does not say who will staff the organization.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student assesses the influence of the social forces contributing to the development of the problems facing single fathers with considerable accuracy, as illustrated by the following:
 - a) “... fathers have never really been recognized as the main caregiver for children.” (Anthropology)
 - b) “The bond between a mother and her child is unique and has created a feeling of alienation on the fathers behalf.” (Psychology)
 - c) “When it comes to a custody case, the judge usually rules in favour of the mother.” (Sociology)

Communication

- The student justifies the formation of the new organization with some effectiveness. The student links the role of the organization with changes taking place in society (e.g., “Our society is now just learning to accept such a concepts a single father, and Friends for Fathers wants to be part of that.”) and tries to persuade the reader to support the proposal by referring to the “immense need for such an organization” and the fact that single fathers

- “have voices and ... should be heard”. However, since the student does not identify specific needs of single fathers, the justification is not fully developed.
- The student uses social science terminology with some appropriateness and accuracy (e.g., “motivational classes”, “feeling of alienation”). However, at times the student lapses into the use of slang (e.g., “... mothers have usually been the ones doing all the dirty work”).

Application

- The student makes predictions about the impact of the community organization that are somewhat appropriate (e.g., “The single fathers in our community would have a place to go when in need and always someone to talk to.”). The student does not, however, consider how the organization will benefit the children of the single fathers, making instead a sweeping statement about its “great and positive impact on our community as a whole”.

Comments

This work is representative of a high level-2 performance. The student demonstrates some degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge/Understanding, Communication, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Thinking/Inquiry category, the student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more characteristic of level 3.

The result is a proposal that shows evidence of research but needs more detail.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- identify and describe the specific needs of single fathers;
- describe the nature and function of the proposed organization more clearly;
- link the needs of the target group more effectively with the justification for establishing the organization;
- maintain a formal tone throughout;
- make predictions that link the organization with the improvement of parenting skills;
- proofread carefully to eliminate errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.