



CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES MALE INVOLVEMENT

Male Involvement Conference – March 9, 2007

CEDA-Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. hosted its annual Male Involvement Conference on Friday March 9, 2007 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. The conference was held to acknowledge and celebrate fatherhood and male involvement for the men/fathers of our Early/Head Start children.

The CEDA-Children and Family Services Male Involvement program encourages the beneficial impact of male/father involvement on the development and well-being of the children. In addition, the program promotes family relationships, and the father's role as provider, caregiver, teacher, and mentor.

The conference was entitled **RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD: "Do it with PASSION"**. Conference highlights included a keynote address from Jeffery M. Leving, Attorney, breakout sessions, panel discussion, and Father of the Year awards.

Breakout sessions included the following topics:

- Enhancing Anger Management Skills
- Fatherhood and the Media: Keeping it reel
- Daddy, Read me a Story
- Expungement: Seal of Records
- Latino Fathers with special needs children and effective programs (English and Spanish language)

There were 155 total attendees at the conference including parents, children, staff, community agencies, and guests. The Hilton Oak Lawn donated an overnight stay/dinner for the CEDA Father of the Year. This successful event and other male involvement services at CEDA will assist the families in enhancing the lives of the children.

For more information, please contact Chris Frederick, Male Involvement Coordinator, at: (312) 795-8981 or by e-mail at: cfrederick@cedaorg.net