Uniting the Communities of Men to Stop the Violence

November 3, 2014
2:31 PM MST

Stopping the violence by reuniting the communities of men for the protection of children in response to the pandemic of street violence in Chicago is necessary.

When a man loses his son, he loses part of himself. Any man's loss of a child diminishes mankind. When a boy loses his father, his definition of manhood can become terribly skewed. This is because there are young, father-absent boys that utilize the media to define their own maleness because they have no biological father figure to rely on as a role model. Unfortunately, violence, gang affiliation, and recreational and multiple sex partners are too often the media's definition of a man as I see it. The glorification of violence is extremely dangerous for our youth. Gangs are often a strong attraction because they provide a sense of family and belonging, positioning a gang leader as a strong and protective substitute father figure. Wrong definition.

The solution is not putting more police on the street, but putting more fathers in the home. And, the government should never provide financial incentives to mothers to keep fathers out of the home and disconnect them from their children. A mother should never be in a position where she feels she must decide whether to move the father out of the home to keep a roof over her head and feed her children. No parent should need to make such a decision where there is no correct decision. When a society loses its fathers, it loses itself.

There are fatherless children struggling to find their identity in our nation where 24 million children live absent their biological fathers. These children can be at a disadvantage because of a situation they did not create and, are therefore, more likely to be poor, experience educational problems and become victims of child abuse. Furthermore, the most reliable predictor of crime in America is father absence.

To stop the violence and improve the well-being of America's children, we must restore fatherhood as a societal norm in all communities because a boy can't be what he can't see. We won't be able to accomplish this if we wait for some other person to do it. We are the ones we seek to make this world a better and safer place for our children.

The worst type of failure is not to try.

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