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‘Good Dads’ nonprofit awarded Greene County ARPA funds

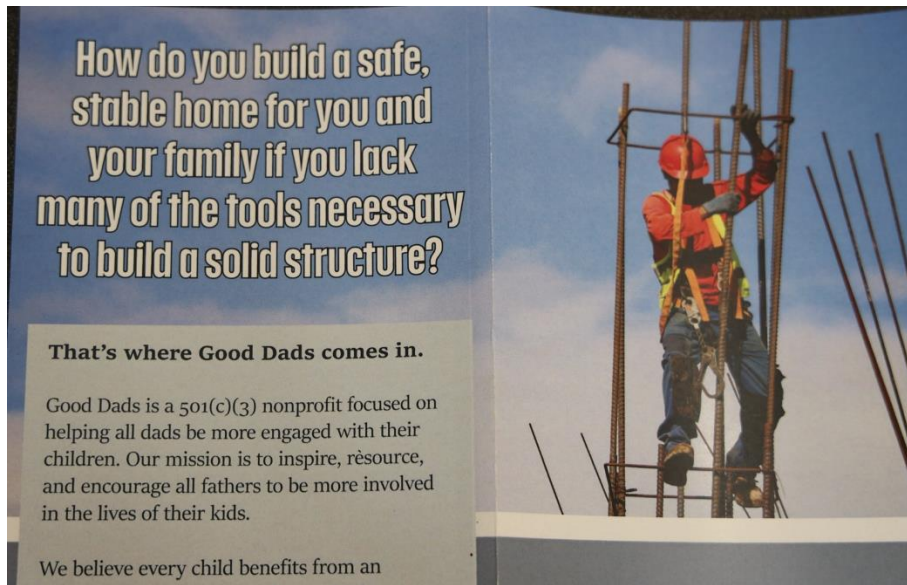


SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Local nonprofit, Good Dads, was awarded over \$45,000 from Greene County’s federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in Oct. 2022 to update its curriculum for at-risk and underserved fathers.

ARPA funds are designed to help with recovery efforts of organizations and small businesses that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good Dads’ mission is to help all fathers be more engaged with their children. The nonprofit used its grant money to redesign, rewrite, print, film, and market its fatherhood curriculum that was over 25 years old.

Good Dads 2.0 used a construction theme as an analogy for fathers to create a vision of building a home they would want for their children.



The nonprofit went to several construction sites and filmed contractors explaining their work to compare that process to building a safe and stable house for a family.

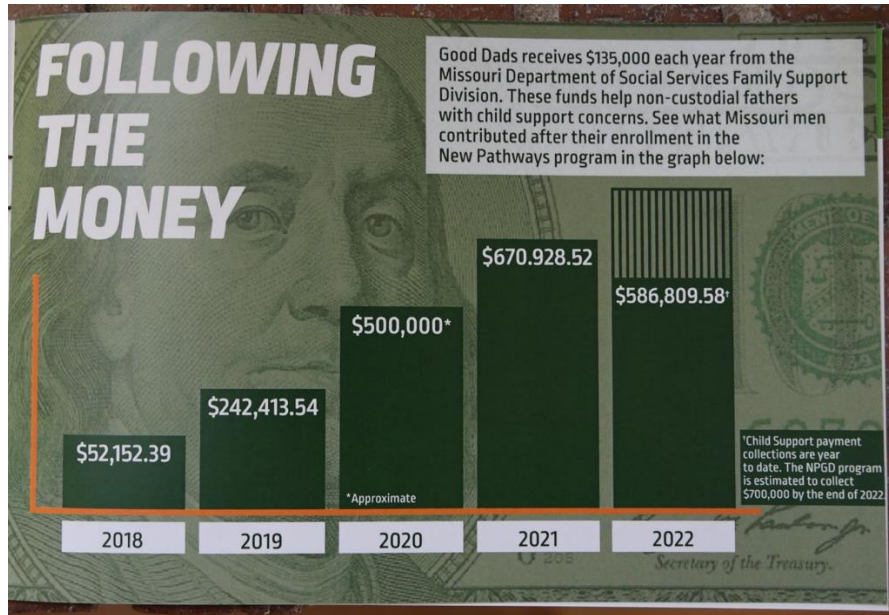
“The ARPA money helped us with all the costs associated with the curriculum updates which were considerable,” said Dr. Jennifer Baker, Founder and Executive Director of Good Dads. “The old curriculum was aimed at a population living in an urban area. Most of our dads don’t live in an urban area.”

Dr. Baker says most of the fathers that go through the Good Dads program are at 185% of the federal poverty level, have a history of incarceration, and addiction. Many are also non-custodial fathers.

“However, our graduates are much more likely to see their children on a regular basis. We also help them get a job and work with them on their child support issues which is the very thing that prevents them from moving forward in life,” said Baker.



In 2022, Good Dads received \$135,000 in grants from the state of Missouri. The fathers that went through the organization’s program in the same year paid close to \$700,000 in child support.



“I’d say it’s a pretty good return on the investment,” said Baker. “The state got money they wouldn’t have received. We also know that we impacted close to 400 children as a result of the program.”

Good Dads has additional resources for fathers including more programs, a networking luncheon, a weekly newsletter, and podcast.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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