

# MALE MATTERS

## DECEMBER 2007

produced by [The Men's Project](#)

### Hot Topics

- ❖ Kick Start 2008
- ❖ December Ideas for Dads and Kids

### Events

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#### **"Kick Start 2008": Supporting Work with Fathers** **Aspiration ⇒ Ideas ⇒ Engagement ⇒ Project ⇒ Way of Working**

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Is your organisation interested in developing work with fathers? Do you ask yourself questions such as: Where do we start? What is possible? Who can help us? What has been tried in other places? Would you like training and ongoing support to achieve your goal? ... Then "Kick Start" might help you!!!

Kick Start is an innovative initiative (sponsored by the Family Policy Unit, DHSSPS and coordinated by The Men's Project within Parents Advice Centre) which offers a seven month package of training, support, reflection and practical action to organisations that are currently trying to, or wishing to, engage with fathers in Northern Ireland.

We are currently recruiting for the next programme intake - which begins in February 2008. This is open to both male and female workers. To get more information, please contact Trisha McQueen / Colin Fowler at Tel: 02890 310891 or visit our website at: [www.mensproject.org/kickstart.html](http://www.mensproject.org/kickstart.html)



#### **Amen 10th Anniversary Conference: 'Much Done, More to Do'**

Will be held in the Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin on the 10th December 2007 from 9.00am - 4.00pm. Amen is a voluntary organisation, founded in December 1997, which provides support and a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and their children. This support service specifically addresses the needs of men suffering silently and alone in abusive relationships. Conference fee = €100.00. Please contact Mary on 0035386 6013448 or email [info@amen.ie](mailto:info@amen.ie) for a booking form.

### **Santa's Winter Wonderland**

The Young Fathers' Project is currently working on a DIY project to build the outdoor scenes for this year's Santa's Winter Wonderland. Santa's Winter Wonderland will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 from 12.00 noon - 8.00pm in Shepherd's View, Shepherd's Glen, Glendermott Road, Derry / Londonderry / Doire.

The event will comprise a two day Santa's Winter Wonderland event, which will include meeting Santa, presents, photographs, animals, crafts, Christmas food, carol singers and other entertainment. It is a family event - with all proceeds going to Shepherd's View Young Parents' Project. The cost will be £6 per child, with concessions available for families. For further information, please contact Fiona/Sharon at the Young Father's Project 02871 348728 or Tracy at Shepherd's View 02871 344309.

### **Survivors of Suicide: 'The Lighting Up of a Celebration of Life Tree'**

The South and East Belfast Families Bereaved through Suicide Support Group continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month, and the next meeting will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Women's Centre in Cregagh.

The South And East Belfast S.O.S. (Survivors Of Suicide) Group would like to invite all family and friends bereaved through suicide to 'The Lighting Up of a Celebration of Life Tree' on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 6.30pm at the Mount Conference Centre, Albertbridge Road, Belfast. A buffet meal will be provided and a get-to-know you session will be held afterwards in the conference centre. For further information, contact: Bobby Cosgrove on 07985418628



### **Wise Men of the East**

When you get time, take a look at an online article on the Wise Men of the East's Cross Border / Cross Community Exchange: <http://www.mensproject.org/resources/menoftheeast.pdf>

### **The Mandate – Living the Adventure**

The biggest ever gathering of men at a conference took place at the Odyssey Arena on Saturday 17th November 2007 when 4,000 men came together from many parts of the world: Ireland, UK, Europe, South Africa, Australia, America and Africa. The Mandate is a one day conference for men which has been held in Belfast since 1996. These events are remarkable in many ways: men from across the denominations come together to worship; most men come in groups and enjoy the camaraderie; the programme is designed with men in mind; the participants hear gifted speakers like Erwin McManus (who this year applied God's Word in today's world and challenged men to live as God intended); there is a combination of traditional and contemporary praise; creative and humorous drama is used. For more details, please visit:

<http://www.emins.com/template.aspx?pid=220&area=18&aName=&textsize>

### **Advance Notice - The Toddler Manual by Dr Ian Banks**

Backed by popular demand from the ever-growing number of readers of the "Baby Manual", local medic Dr Ian Banks now turns his attention to the 'Terrible Twos' (and threes, and fours). In fact, many toddler tantrums can be avoided once you understand why they happen and, with the help of this book, the occasional upset should not spoil your enjoyment of this exciting (and sometimes hilarious) phase of growing up. This new publication - which is focused on helping fathers to understand their toddlers - will be published in March 2008.

## Parents Advice Centre recruiting Helpline Volunteers

If you have substantial parenting experience and / or significant experience of working with families and can make a commitment of at least 4 hours a week, they will provide accredited training, ongoing support and a real challenge! Belfast and Ballymena Courses commence February 2008. For more information and to download an application pack please go to [www.parentsadvicecentre.org/volunteering](http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/volunteering) or contact Andrea on 02890 310891 or [andrea@pachelp.org](mailto:andrea@pachelp.org)



## Courses

Parents Advice Centre has the following courses and workshops on offer in the New Year:

- ❖ **Parents Anger Management Course**
- ❖ **Handling Teenagers Course**
- ❖ **Positive Parenting Course for those Parenting Apart**
- ❖ **Parenting Apart Workshop**
- ❖ **Managing Children's Challenging Behaviour Workshop**

For further details please click:

<http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parenting/documents/newsletterjanuarmay2008.pdf>



## December Ideas for Dads and Kids

**Story Time:** Most of us have been to see Santa at some point in our lives, so go get out all the old pictures of when you were little and visited Santa, show them to your children, and tell them all about it.

**Write a letter to Santa:** This will require two letters ... one that your children will write - telling Santa how good they have been - and a second one which is your reply to your little ones the following morning. Their faces will light up when they see a letter from Santa!

[Lots to do at W5](#)

[Christmas Around the World](#)

[Good Deed Calendar](#)



## On the Web

[Parenting and the different ways it can affect children's lives: research evidence](#)

[Recognising Fathers: a national survey to explore the issues faced by fathers of children with a learning disability](#)

[Father and Daughter Animation](#)

[Boys of 12 are abusing steroids](#)

[Men targeted for chlamydia tests](#)

[Men keen on fatherhood should stop smoking](#)

[Men more romantic when love's on the rocks](#)

 **Website of the Month**   
<http://www.amen.ie/>

**HEY! What are you up to in the New Year?  
Let me know about it for in the next edition!**  
Email: [trisha@mensproject.org](mailto:trisha@mensproject.org)

**The Men's Project:** We are always updating our online directory of organisations which offer support or services to men. If you would like to update your existing entry, or would like be registered on it, please click here for details: <http://www.mensproject.org/mendir/index.html>

**Note to readers:**

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our mailing list, or you wish to be removed, or you have any news you want included, please email me at: [trisha@mensproject.org](mailto:trisha@mensproject.org)

(The views expressed in Emale Matters are not necessarily those of The Men's Project)

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
The Men's Project**

