



Kids 'n' Dad 2009 Year End Update

To Friends and Supporters of KND

December 2009

If it seems that KND has been relatively quiet for several months in our communication, you are probably correct and thankful for the rest. I could hear you yelling... no more please! The following is our way to say we're backkkkkk!

For the past year, KND has been engaged behind the scenes in a major effort to bring an improved way to support separating and transitioning families in our community.

Unfortunately, our effort broke down unexpectedly in early July and I have spent three months contemplating the future of Kids 'n' Dad. Most of you know my passion to support and give voice to you and the 1000's of families who never make it to KND.

Through these last weeks each time that I thought about formally closing down a call from a wounded dad, new partner or grandparent came through and the need to continue to provide support is evident. I realized that there is still no one in the community that provides the services of KND or attempts to educate the community and professional services about your common decency as parents, stepmothers and grandparents.

This has been a difficult year for many of you. The recession continues to strike so many of our clients and dramatically impacts their loved ones. The recession has exposed the Family Law system as incapable of adapting to these changing conditions. I have attached our Christmas tip sheet, etc. again in hopes that it has some usefulness.

On a more cheerful note our family was blessed by the birth of a child. My daughter gave birth to a son, our third grandchild and I was again struck by the love and commitment never-ending of mom and dad to their child, Nolan Isaac. I hope that each of you in this family season is reminded of the joy, love and commitment that exist between you and your child.

Most everyone receiving this update is connected closely by personal or family circumstances. I offer this recent personal experience. It occurred when I dropped my 11- year-old granddaughter off at dance and she warmly shouted out "I love you Grandpa."

In the grand scheme of things a 'lovely' but forgettable moment; nevertheless, my eyes misted over and I came close to tears as I reflected on my journey to this place in time. In recent days this has become an increasingly common response for this writer.

I realized that our common reality (you and I) is that each of us - dads, moms and grandparents- are intimately bonded through similar moments because we share (d) the common fear or reality of suffering from the interruption of those moments.

My response reassured/convicted me that Kids 'n' Dad must continue on our mission to give every separated family a lifetime together.

So Kids 'n' Dad Shared Support will continue and our 'better way' is going to be taken to the broader community.

I need you to help me in whatever way you can. I am poor at reaching out but KND does need your different kinds of support. I will be providing options to do so going forward.

I have included the KND vision on our web site. It outlines the interconnection amongst all members of this community and the work of KND. Take time to read it and reply with an email if you wish. The following is part of our plan.

Our Action Plan will focus on the following:

1. Taking our vision to the larger community by seeking new partners
2. Developing and presenting educational workshops and support groups. Please watch for these announcements.
3. Challenge the existing indifference in our community for separated fathers, grandparents, and new families. This will be done by various methods of messaging.

KND has purchased a digital projector at a cost of \$750.00 for our road journey. We have received a contribution of \$100.00 toward this expense. We still need more obviously. A tax receipt will be provided for donations of \$20.00 or more.

Other donations will be applied to delivery of programs. At KND there is no paid staff. All donations go directly to pay for guest professionals and group facilitators. So if you are in a position to help, thank you. All services continue to be free because we know that this is a very difficult time in our clients' lives. It may be possible that you know individuals or businesses that make charitable donations at this time of year. You could perhaps let them know about us. Tax receipts are available for donors.

Finally, I am so proud of you and your efforts to meet the obstacles strewn recklessly in your path. I know there were many times when you are/were running on empty and it has taken every ounce of courage to carry on. Be good to yourself and forgiving also. In this separation universe things don't work out ... just because.

You have many friends who are sharing your travels and there is hope, change and a rewarding life ahead. Reach out to those friends to help you get to that next place.

Merry Christmas and Season Greetings

Barry Lillie & Family, Kids 'n' Dad Shared Support

"We are here for you and your family!"