

# Community Fatherhood BBQ

Dorchester County Department of Social Services



## Dorchester Co. Social Services Hosts Community BBQ “Celebrating Fatherhood”

On, Thursday, August 18, 2016, the Dorchester County Department of Social Services, sponsored a Free Fatherhood BBQ celebrating Dads and their children for the community of Dorchester County, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. “The Fatherhood BBQ” was held on the green at Race and Cedar Streets in Cambridge, MD. This was a prime location in the center of Cambridge, enabling many fathers and their children without transportation the opportunity to walk or bike ride over to partake in the festivities. All enjoyed an afternoon of fun and food, with two bouncy houses, yard games, basketball court, and lots of barbecue catered by the BBQ Joint.

A total of 345 people attended the event, of which 300 were families, fathers, and children from the community; with the remaining 45 present being volunteers and community partners. From 4 until 7pm the kids got to play games, dance to the music and have a chance at a raffle for new school backpacks filled with school supplies. Over 50 backpacks were won.

The Cambridge Health Department joined in the fun and set up a table with giveaways and valuable information for dads and their children. Sergeant Antonie Patton of the Cambridge Police Department led in coordinating to have members of the CPD come out and join the fun. The officers had children wear goggles that make it appear as though you are intoxicated, and then try to walk a straight line and pick candy up off the ground. Another officer brought a police dirt bike that kids excitedly climbed on pretending they were on “a chase”.

A quote by Chief Dan Dvorak



Shown in the photo from left to right are Juana Blue, Supervisor FIA, Philip Thompson, DSS Assistant Director of Services, Nicholette Smith-Bligen, DSS director, Clara Savage, Special Projects and Grant Coordinator, Victoria Stanley, Mayor of Cambridge, Brady Johnson, Family Services & Foster Care Social Worker, and Ella Stanley, Supervisor, Child Support.

of the Cambridge PD was featured in a local newspaper that covered the event saying, “Never before have I seen a state agency working so hard to engage with the community. We were proud to be part of it. Nicholette Smith-Bligen has identified

an issue that needs to be addressed, and that is with fathers and their roles and responsibilities with their families. Bringing dads and kids together in an event like this is what will improve family relationships for the future.”

