

# FIRST THINGS



A publication of First Things First



*September 16*

*“Going the Distance”  
for your family*



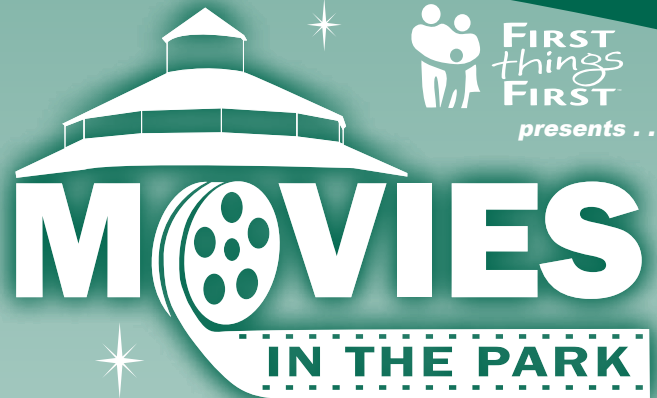
**You are cordially invited** to join FTF for our Annual Fall Banquet coming to the Chattanooga Convention Center on Thursday, September 16. We are excited to welcome Carey Casey as our banquet speaker this year. Casey is the President and CEO of the National Center for Fathering and author of the book *Championship Fathering*. He is well-known in the athletic world, serving as chaplain at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea; chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys under Hall of Fame Coach Tom Landry, and

chaplain for the Kansas City Chiefs.

In 2009, Casey was asked to serve on the White House Task Force on Fatherhood and Healthy Families. In high school, Casey played in the 1971 Virginia State Championship football game—the game that was later dramatized in the award-winning movie, *Remember the Titans*. Carey is still friends with former Titans coach Herman Boone and many of the other people who were portrayed in the movie.

He has earned the reputation as a dynamic speaker, and continues to speak on life issues for numerous professional and college sports teams across America. We are proud to have him join us as we celebrate this year's theme, "Going the Distance".

*There are several ways for you to partner with us in making our Annual Fall Banquet a success. You may purchase individual tickets at \$50 each, or you or your company can sponsor a table of eight for the evening. An event like this is only possible with **your help**. Call the FTF office at 423.267.5383 or visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org). Make plans to join us on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!*



## Movies in the Park returns to Coolidge Park!

**Now in its eighth season**, Movies in the Park offers family-friendly box office hits on the big screen each Saturday in July starting July 10. More than 20,000 people came out last year as we partnered with the City of Chattanooga to bring you this event, and you can expect another great season in 2010. So grab a blanket or lawn chair, and bring your family to watch a great movie at sundown (just after 9 p.m.). This event is free and open to the public. Randy Carpenter with Family Concessions will also be on hand with budget friendly snacks available for purchase. In the event of inclement weather, listen to Sunny 92.3 FM to find out if that Saturday evening's movie will be shown. And remember, **all children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult**.

**Thank you to the nearly 400 individuals who picked this year's slate via [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org)**

**And the winners are ...**

July 10—*Night at the Museum*

July 17—*Monsters vs. Aliens*

July 25—*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*

July 31—*Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*



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## Federal Employee? 56975

You can donate to  
First Things First through  
the CFC Campaign!

## Celebrating Fatherhood

Having just celebrated the 100th anniversary of Father's Day it is hard to believe that there are still some who question the importance of a father's role in the life of a child.

President Calvin Coolidge wrote: "The widespread observance of this occasion (Father's Day) is calculated to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and also to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations . . ."

According to 2009 U.S. Census data, more than 24 million children live apart from their biological fathers. **That is 1 out of every 3 (33%) children in America.**

- **Nearly 2 in 3 (64%) African American children live in father-absent homes.**
- **One in three (34%) Hispanic children, and**
- **One in four (25%) white children live in father-absent homes.**

**In 1960, only 11% of children lived in father-absent homes.**

The research clearly indicates that children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents.

We know that boys learn how to be men from their fathers, and girls learn how a woman should expect to be treated by the way their fathers treat their mothers.

In a recent conversation with Dr. Jill Murray, psychologist and author of several books on dating violence, we were lamenting the fact that instead of fathers being seen as necessities in the lives of children, they are seen as accessories.

How can we partner to help more children to be raised in a home with their biological father?

A great place to start is to encourage expectant fathers to attend our Boot Camp for New Dads class. Research indicates that the earlier a father is involved in the life of his child, the greater the likelihood that he will stay involved. Additionally, we have on-going opportunities for fathers to participate in workshops and we have a new e-newsletter providing helpful information for dads of all ages.

### Something to look forward to . . .

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit the set of the new movie *Courageous* which is being produced by Sherwood Pictures, the same group who brought *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants* to the big screen. What an amazing experience! The focus of the movie is fatherhood. I watched clips from the movie and I am telling you this movie is going to knock your socks off! The cinematography is incredible. There is a lot of action and humor throughout the movie. The storyline is a great reminder of the impact of a father on the life of a child.

*Here's to the difference a dad makes!*



**Julie Baumgardner**  
*President &  
FTF Executive Director*

# TALK TO FRIENDS WINS AGAIN AT REGIONAL ADDYS



Funding for this project was made possible by a Healthy Marriage Demonstration grant.

The First Things First *Talk To Friends* media campaign was honored recently at the District 7 Conference of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) held in Mobile, AL. This campaign, geared toward teens, was a collaborative effort between First Things First and KMT Creative. After winning two Gold ADDYs and one Silver ADDY at the local level in February, *Talk To Friends* went on to again bring

home Gold ADDY awards for both the entire campaign and the corresponding television ads.

"This campaign competed against more than 1,000 entries from 5 states including Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and lower Louisiana," said Kathy Jacobus, Board Chair and Past Governor of AAF, District 7. "Very few campaigns have gone on to the national competition from Chattanooga, and we are so proud of First Things First and KMT Creative for making it to the national level."

"We're excited to share this award with our friends at KMT Creative," said FTF President & Executive Director Julie Baumgardner. "But what I'm most excited about is the fact that teens are using the site and learning how to build healthy lives and relationships."

**Check out the website for yourself and partner with us in helping area teens get the real facts on dating and relationships. Visit [talktofriends.org](http://talktofriends.org).**



The dynamics of the modern family have changed quite a bit over the past few decades. Today's families often face a new set of challenges that come with remarriage, fathering from a distance and even becoming an empty-nester. That's why FTF brings you Family University or "Fam U" which offers a variety of classes to help you meet these challenges head on, and gain a better understanding of what "family" means to you.

**To view our class offerings, visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org).**



We know how hectic life can get sometimes when you're working hard, raising a family and trying to make ends meet. That's why First Things First offers you Partnership Plus. This cool program gives you and your spouse the opportunity to rediscover the fun of dating again with a variety of monthly benefits, but at a fraction of the cost. For an annual commitment of \$19.99 a month or a lump sum gift of \$200, you will receive:

- Monthly date night ideas
- Restaurant discounts
- Special event seating at Movies in the Park
- 2 tickets to a First Things First special event
- Families on the Run Registration
- 4 free classes for two people
- 4 free books (one per quarter)

As a member you'll receive a different gift each month, and your partnership with First Things First will help to build up and support other families in our community just like yours.

*Sign up for Partnership Plus today at [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org).*

## Are you looking for Mr. or Ms. Right?



Then this seminar is for you! Area singles are invited to join us for the 2nd annual "Living Single" Seminar on **Saturday, August 7** at the Oak Street Center. It's a full day of fun

activities to help you learn how to "follow your heart without losing your mind". Topics will include important issues like starting over, the pros and cons of living together, dating with children and learning the qualities of a "keeper". More than 200 individuals attended last year's seminar, including Tonya Morrison who had this to say:

*"Very much food for my soul . . . very detailed and in depth, and beyond surface material. Excellent speakers! We need this more than one time a year. There is not much in Chattanooga that gives attention to singles . . . more for married people."*

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 7 at the Oak Street Center on located at 433 Oak Street.. The seminar is from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with lunch included. Admission is \$5. Pre-registration is required.**

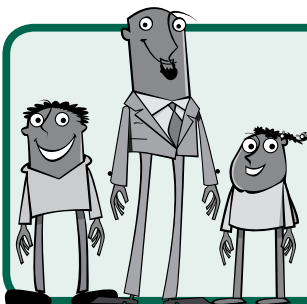
**Visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org) for more information.**

\* Funding for this project was provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FE0031. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

# THE MAKING OF "COURAGEOUS"

Sherwood Pictures, the creators of *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*, is currently working on another inspirational thriller called *Courageous*. This new film is centered around four law enforcement officers and the challenges of fatherhood that each of them faces. FTF had the rare opportunity to visit the set of this upcoming film in Albany, Ga. The experience was amazing! "I found myself laughing, crying and cheering as I watched the actors bring home the messages of marriage, family and fatherhood," said FTF President & Executive Director Julie Baumgardner. "It's action-packed. The whole family will love this movie." *Courageous* is scheduled for release in 2011.

For more information about the film, visit [www.courageousthemovie.com](http://www.courageousthemovie.com)



## ALL PRO DAD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!

**All Pro Dad** is a sports-themed program specifically designed for fathers and their elementary school-aged children. Each month, dads and their kids meet for breakfast at their respective schools and participate in interactive discussions on topics like peer pressure, goal-setting and much more. This fall, FTF plans to kick off the All Pro Dad program in various schools.

*If you're a dad and would like to serve on our advisory board, call Todd Agne at 423.267.5383.*



## DAD to DAD

### It's All About Dad!

Have you read our new fathering e-newsletter, *Dad to Dad*? This monthly feature offers fathers of all walks of life tips and tools to make the journey through fatherhood a little easier to navigate. Check out "dad-friendly" articles on parenting; learn ways to better connect with your kids in "The Locker Room" and get a good laugh from our exclusive new comic strip "I Am Dad".

For more information or to sign up for *Dad to Dad*, visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org).



## FIRST TIME DAD?



Have no fear, **Boot Camp for New Dads** is here! This is a fun and educational class for new dads and dads-to-be. Veteran dads bring their babies and will discuss the challenges new fathers face: uncontrollable crying (from baby and mom), dealing with the in-laws and living on little or no sleep. Matt Cook recently took the class and had this to say:

*I enjoyed the class. Great food for thought with practical examples without over-analyzing. Good diversity in presentation . . . getting out of our seats to participate in "ninja or pirate exercise"; use of videos, just speaking and use of tablet and easel. I kept notes and look forward to other classes.*

### Upcoming classes:

**Saturday, July 17** at Erlanger Women's East, 9 a.m.–Noon

**Saturday, Aug 21** at Erlanger Women's East, 9 a.m.–Noon

**For a listing of additional classes, visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org)**

# FTF IN THE COMMUNITY: FATHERING CLASSES FOR INMATES



Over the past year, First Things First has collaborated with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department to offer a series of fathering classes for inmates. The class was recently featured in the Chattanooga Times-Free Press. The goal is to help men improve their own lives and the lives of their children by first recognizing the difference between being a father and being a parent. Participation in this eight-week class is voluntary, but it is a first step for these men toward building trust and new relationships with their families. "If you don't take the time to better yourself in here (jail), then you're going to get stuck in that revolving door," says Jose Perez, who took the class as an inmate himself, but now works in the court system through the A.I.L.S. program (Abuse Intervention with Life Skills).

The cycle of absentee fathers puts a heavy burden on our community:

- Even after controlling for income, youths in father-absent households still had significantly higher odds of incarceration than those in mother-father families. Youths who never had a father in the household experienced the highest odds. *Source: Harper, Cynthia C. and Sara S. McLanahan. "Father Absence and Youth Incarceration." Journal of Research on Adolescence 14 (September 2004): 369-397.*
- A 2002 Department of Justice survey of 7,000 inmates revealed that 39% of jail inmates lived in mother-only households. Approximately forty-six percent of jail inmates in 2002 had a previously incarcerated family member. One-fifth experienced a father in prison or jail. *Source: James, Doris J. Profile of Jail Inmates, 2002. (NCJ 201932). Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, July 2004.*

But with each class, men are learning the skills they need to break the cycle, and become the fathers their children need them to be. We thank Sheriff Jim Hammond and the staff of the Hamilton County Jail for the opportunity to partner with them and continue the effort to strengthen families in our community.

## Are you single? Dating? Engaged or newlywed? Are you expecting your first baby?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then check out our new website FromMe2We.org. This website offers young adults a place to get real-life answers to real-life situations like preparing for marriage or starting a family. Get tips on building healthy relationships, money management, romance after the baby comes and much more. It's all there to help you transition from "me" to "we". Let us know what you think!



\* Funding for this project was provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FE0031. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.



## summer blast!

An adventurous day for teens 14-18 filled with activities, games and discussions about:

Healthy Dating • Drama-free relationships • How to break up . . . and much more.



Brought to you by First Things First

**Come and have a BLAST!**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Free Admission! Free Food!**

**Registration required.**

For dates and locations or to register, visit [talktofriends.org](http://talktofriends.org)

**Chattanooga • Cleveland • Dayton • Trenton  
LaFayette • Summerville • Ringgold • Dalton**

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First Things First  
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**Sign up for our e-news today!**  
**Visit [firstthings.org](http://firstthings.org)**

## CALLING ALL ATHLETES!!

**Start your training now for this year's SportsBarn/  
Quintana Roo Sprint Triathlon on Sunday  
August 8th.** Just like last year, athletes and  
weekend warriors alike will converge at the

Chickamauga Dam to swim, ride and run to  
Chattanooga's Riverfront and downtown  
district.

Participants will  
begin at 7 a.m. by swimming a  
quarter-mile in the Chickamauga Lake, then  
riding 8.2 miles to downtown Chattanooga  
via Amnicola Highway. The race ends with a 2  
mile run around the river front and north shore.  
Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place  
winners overall and in each age group.

*The SportsBarn/Quintana Roo Sprint  
Triathlon is sponsored by Personal Fitness  
Specialists, News Channel 9, KZ 106,  
107.9 The Duke and Talk Radio 102.3.*

**For more details information, visit  
[firstthing.org](http://firstthing.org).**

## *Spice it up with Chick-fil-A and First Things First!*

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 5.** Chick-fil-A and FTF are bringing you a night of music, laughter, excitement and inspiration. Hear from the "Love Doctor" Gary Smalley, singer/songwriter Michael O'Brien and Dan and Bubba Cathy from Chick-fil-A. Details are coming soon!!

# BASEBALL SUNDAYS



**This season,** FTF has teamed up with the Chattanooga Lookouts to sponsor select Sunday afternoon home games and you still have a chance to get in on the action. With your paid gate admission, you can arrive early and play catch with your kids on AT&T Field before game time (baseballs are provided, but you'll need a glove). **The gates open at 12:30 p.m., and you will be allowed on the field from 1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.** Don't miss Baseball Sundays with the Lookouts and First Things First. **The last two FTF games are Sunday, July 25th and Sunday, August 15th at 2:15 p.m. (Subject to change due to weather conditions.)**

