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YMCA

Cookout Promises Dads' Favorite Dishes, Family Fun

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With Father’s Day around the corner, the John R. Grubbs YMCA is taking the opportunity to celebrate dads in a big way with the annual Fathers and Families Cookout. Held Saturday, June 13, from 3-5 p.m., at the Grubbs YMCA in Des Moines, this community-wide event offers families, friends, and neighbors the opportunity to cook up their favorite recipes for family, friends, and the community.

Men from throughout the community are invited to join in by cooking, boiling, and grilling a dish of their choice and offering samples for attendees and celebrity judges. Music, games, face painting, and bounce houses round out the family gathering fun for the entire family. (See schedule for ticket and cook-off information.)

"The aim is to bring the wider community to recognize and applaud dads and the valuable role they play in our families," says Cameron Nichols, executive director of the Grubbs Y. "The cookout is an opportunity for families to see fathers serving and leading in a meaningful way."

Clearly, children benefit greatly from having nurturing, mentoring relationships with their fathers. However, for an ever-growing number of children who grow up without their fathers present, the social challenges mount.

Children from fatherless homes are...