

April 12, 2017

Dear Parent/Male Caregiver to a child/children with disabilities:

This communication is to inform the community-at-large about a support group for males (dads, uncles, brothers, etc.) who are responsible for a special needs child/children. Our group is called **Twin Cities Dads with Kids with Disabilities** (tcdads.org).

This support group is for men living primarily in the Twin Cities area. We have been in existence for over 11 years. We believe that we are the only support group in the Twin Cities that is working exclusively with men with a child with disabilities.

We meet once monthly, from Sept. – May on the 2nd Monday of the month from 6-7:30pm at the Wilder School, 3328 Elliot Ave. So. (34th & Chicago Ave.). Enter Door # 2, Southside of the building.

Currently we have 6-8 fathers attending the group. It is a support group so members are encouraged to discuss what issues come up for them in their families with a disabled child. All topics related are open for discussion within the group. As one of the group shares his concerns, all of the members are encouraged to give feedback from their experience of raising a special needs child. Members know that the group is a safe and trusting place to discuss whatever is on their minds that evening. Members really appreciate the chance to listen to others, share their own experiences, and feel connected as a group of men and fathers.

The group is recruiting new members to join us. We will be starting fresh again next September, 2017.

Please note that we are affiliated with the Minneapolis Public Schools ECFE program at Wilder. Thus we have teacher services from ECFE for the children of these dads so that the men can meet separately from the children. Toddlers through 3rd grade qualify for these services.

The group is led by two professional Master's Degree Social Workers. Don Nikkola and Steve Roecklein co-facilitate the group. Both of these men have many years of experience working with children and families. Thus there is an added dimension to this group interaction since professionals are leading it. Too, both Don & Steve organized the group and have led it from its inception.

We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us monthly for this opportunity to participate in this support group. We, both Don and I, are happy to speak with you further if you have any questions or feedback about the group.

You can reach Don Nikkola and Steve Roecklein online at www.tcdads.org/contact/message. Please send your questions or whatever.

Thank you.

Don Nikkola Steve Roecklein