

**For Immediate Release**  
June 14, 2013

Contact: Edwin Chan, Executive Analyst  
County of San Mateo, Human Services Agency  
Phone: (650) 995-3733

## **Celebrate Father's Day at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual DAD & ME at the PARK on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Coyote Point Park!**

**Redwood City, CA** – The San Mateo County Human Services Agency will host the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dad & Me at the Park event in honor of Father's Day on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Coyote Point Park. The yearly event is sponsored by the Fatherhood Collaborative and is free to the public. Over 700 people have registered to enjoy free admission to the park and a free BBQ lunch. While registration has closed for the free BBQ, additional spots may open up on a first come first served basis. There are still many free fun activities, field games and prize giveaways planned for the participants along with the annual recognition of the Fatherhood Awards.

“This is a great event for families to celebrate Father's Day together in one of our beautiful county parks, and where we honor exemplary fathers in our community,” said San Mateo County Supervisor David Pine. “As a father of two sons, I know first-hand the important role that fathers play in children's lives, and I commend this year's awards recipients for the extraordinary work they do for their families and our county.”

Here are the Awardees of this year's Fatherhood Awards:

**Father of the Year- Reda El Gabry**, Reda is a deeply involved father to his daughter and has attended every parent meeting for the past three years at Head Start and is strongly involved with his daughter's development

**Fatherhood Advocacy- Dean Seki**, Dean has been a mentor to numerous fathers and continues to be a role model despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer

**Fatherhood Service- Danilo Garcia**, Danilo teaches high school students through the *Impact and Financial Responsibility of Parenthood* outreach program and what it means to be a young parent

“Research shows that children who have relationships with their fathers are more likely to stay in school and graduate, are less likely to engage in criminal activities and will become productive citizens in our communities,” said Patrick Ledesma, Chair of the Fatherhood Collaborative. “As an advisory board, our goal is to continue to raise awareness and offer opportunities for fathers to engage with their kids. We have other events free of charge for fathers to participate with their kids and I would encourage all adults to stay in touch with the Collaborative for upcoming events.”

The Fatherhood Collaborative’s Facebook page is a great way to stay connected with current and upcoming events, see event photos and remain informed of Fatherhood related activities and information. “Like” the Fatherhood Collaborative at [www.facebook.com/FatherhoodCollaborativeSMC](http://www.facebook.com/FatherhoodCollaborativeSMC)

The Fatherhood Collaborative is an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and whose mission is to provide a forum addressing and supporting the importance of men and fathers taking an active role in the well being of children and families.

###