



**Building Peaceful Families**

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## **TOP DADS AWARD ESSAY CONTEST**

April 12, 2011

Educator/Community Leader/ Faith Leader/ Father/ Mother,

Building Peaceful Families, in partnership with the San Francisco 49ers and the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services (FYS) program, invites kids (ages 5 to 17) to participate in our annual **Top Dads Award Essay Contest**. Children can nominate their father or father figure for this prestigious award by submitting an essay telling us why he should be considered a "Top Dad" for 2011 (see contest entry form, attached). This essay contest is adapted from a national campaign run by the non-profit organization, National Center for Fathering.

This contest is designed to stimulate a child's thinking about their father or father figure and the important role he plays in the child's life. The contest also helps increase community awareness of the importance of fathering and focuses public attention on what makes a great father.

We recognize that some kids have little or no contact with their biological father because of death, divorce, or abandonment. Please encourage those children to write about a father figure - a stepfather, grandfather, uncle, brother, or even a male teacher or coach.

The 50 essay finalists will receive awards and an invitation to attend a special **Top Dads Celebration Luncheon** on **Friday, June 10, 2011**, at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel (1740 N. First Street, San Jose). We encourage schools and community group leaders to collect all the children's essays and mail them together to the address listed on the contest entry form.

Since every child who submits an essay is a winner by virtue of their submission, we strongly encourage you to set aside the time for the young person in your school, program, or home to write an essay between now and the deadline of **May 13, 2011**. The entry form and instructions are attached. Please encourage the kids in your community to participate.

In community spirit,

Sharon Chatman  
Founder  
Building Peaceful Families  
Top Dads Award Contest