

11th National Fatherhood and Families Conference, Los Angeles, CA - Parent Interview: Mark Anthony

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Mark Anthony: Hi, my name's Mark Anthony. I got involved with the Patchogue Head Start Fatherhood program after I was in the hospital. Got some medical issues, and I was laying in the bed wondering if I'm gonna live tomorrow to spend some time with my kid. So after that, after I came out to the hospital, took my kid to Head Start and I realized that I had to spend more time with her. After reaching out to Anna at the Patchogue Center, she told me about the Fatherhood program. And I said, "You know what? If this is the beginning to find a way to spend more time with my child, I might as well go to Patchogue and take a look at it."

After going to Patchogue, it was incredible. I met so many fathers, like, in the same boat I was in, trying to find a way, trying to find more ideas of spending time with their kids and stuff, that I felt that this was the place for me. I learned so much from different fathers, because at the beginning, I thought I knew how to be a father, but when I listened to the other fathers explaining their problems and what they had to go through and how they spend their time and their days with their kids, I realized that I could do a lot more. So without -- without the program, I probably would be lost right now.

There, you know... My advice to fathers is, you know, don't wait 'til you're in a hospital bed being told by a doctor whether you're gonna live or die before you decide you want to spend time with your kids, you know. Start today, you know. Like I always say, the decisions we make with our children today will affect them for the rest of their lives, you know. Walk with them today when they can't walk by themselves. Don't wait till they could walk tomorrow and then try to be part of their lives.

Do the right thing; be part of your child's life. And I'd just like to thank Patchogue Head Start for giving me the opportunity to watch my child grow and to be part of her life and meet a whole bunch of great people that's involved in the Fatherhood program.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000637-Mark+Anthony+Parent+Interview-2009-SD360p/8eeabcf9v45eeO479b69848meh68a9b9e9e5>