

Kevin Williams poses with his little ones.

Photos by Layla Farmer

DADDY DEAREST

YMCA program strengthens bonds between fathers and their children

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The YMCA reacquainted local fathers with its popular Adventure Guides program at the Central Y last Friday evening.

"My dad and I were in this program back when it was called Indian Guides," related Darryl Head, executive director of the Central YMCA. "At that time, I was a Wild Wolf, my dad was a Wise Wolf. It was really a wonderful experience."

Adventure Guides places father-child pairs in groups, or "circles" of 10-15. Participants engage in a variety of activities designed to foster positive and harmonious parent-child relationships.

At last week's event, father-child pairs enjoyed popcorn and took part in a "Polar Bear Swim" splash contest and had "bounce time" in an inflatable bounce house.

"Statistics say that dads spend less than 19 minutes of constructive quality time with their children a day," explained Adventure Guides Director Lisa Lide. "That's why it's imperative for us to support the dads in spending quality time, because quality time is really important."

The program has afforded Head and his own son some precious moments. He cited the program's Apple Hour as one of his most rewarding experiences so far. In Apple Hour, fathers and their children go off on their own to eat apples and give each other their undivided attention for one hour.

"You just go eat an apple, and you sit there and talk for an hour. And I often think, how many times do we just sit and talk just about what's going on in his life and how he's feeling growing up?" he related. "We were in front of the lake, sitting on a log, eating an apple and we did that for an hour together. It was an hour I won't forget for a long, long time."

A national initiative of the YMCA for 82 years, the Adventure Guides program has provided many families with similar happy moments, says Lide.

More than 450 Forsyth County children and fathers participated in Adventure Guides last year, a number that Lide says she hopes to see increase this time around.

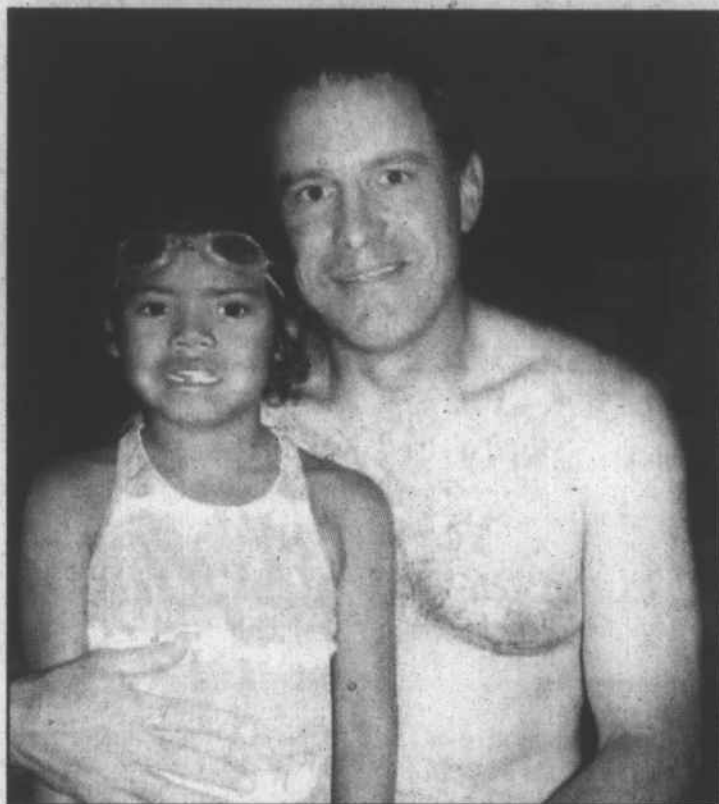
"I was thinking that we would increase our program by 30 percent," she remarked. "However, the wonderful thing that I've learned about working at the Y is being able to touch one life has impact enough because that's what we're about."

For Attorney Kevin Williams, Adventure Guides' reputation preceded it.

"Even before I ever had children, I'd heard about the program," stated the father of three. "When I had children, it was a foregone conclusion that we were going to join the program."

Williams said the program has also allowed him to create bonds with other dads.

"The kids love it, they



Tom Bull with his daughter, Andrea.



Lisa Lide

love the fellowship; I've made some of my best friends in Winston-Salem through the program," he said.

Tom Bull, an optometrist, was a member of Adventure Guides as a child and has participated in the program with his eight-year-old son, Bryan for three years. This year, Bull is doing double duty, as daughter Andrea, 6, is finally old enough to get in on the action.

"She's been very jealous and now she gets her chance," he said gesturing to his little girl. "This is going to be her first year doing it and she is very excited."

Bull says he still has a shield he made with his own father as an Adventure Guides participant 30 years ago.

"It's nice being able to kind of just slow down and take time to really pay attention to what (my children) have to say and remembering that this time - when they're that young - goes by so fast," he said. "It's fun to be able to have that carved out time ... to really stop and appreciate every little moment with them, to create memories for them when they're older, and then also to have the memory from us for me."

For more information about Adventure Guides, contact Lide, at (336) 721-2100 ext. 2059.

News Clips

The MIX at the MAX

"The MIX," the city's new entertainment event for teenagers, has almost maxed-out.

Officials announced last week that with almost 800 teenagers having registered to attend The MIX in its first three weeks, the event can only accommodate about 50 more teenagers. That number may have now decreased since last week's announcement. Registration forms for those 50 spots were being accepted first-come, first-served basis.

Teens must have parental permission and obtain a MIX ID badge to enter The MIX, which is held at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center on most Friday nights from 8 to 11 p.m. The Recreation Department is considering options for accommodating more teen-agers.

Applications being taken for Citizens' Police Academy

The Police Department is accepting applications for the fall session of the Citizens' Police Academy, which will start Aug. 26, 2008. The academy is designed to increase community awareness of the law enforcement profession and the role of the Police Department by informing citizens of the administrative philosophy, internal policies and guidelines, and principles of law and ethical conduct that govern the delivery of police services within our community.

The curriculum is similar to recruit training for new police officers, with a mix of classroom and scenario/hands-on training.

The Citizens' Police Academy will meet from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks, starting Aug. 26. Enrollment is open to any citizen 18 years of age or older who resides, works or attends school in Winston-Salem.

Anyone interested in attending the Citizens' Police Academy may call the Winston-Salem Police Department for an application at 773-7788, or complete an application online at www.wspd.org.

The class is limited to 30 students. Applications must be submitted by Aug. 12.

Bill to help better serve domestic violence victims

Gov. Mike Easley has signed into law House Bill 2189.



Farmer-Butterfield

"An act to provide domestic violence victims with information and assistance, and to study a statewide automated notification system for persons with domestic violence protective orders, as recommended by the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence."

This new law requires that, within 72 hours of identifying a victim of domestic violence, the victim is told about medical, criminal law enforcement and crime victim services available along with being given information about the arrest of a person believed to have committed the crime.

The law also directs the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, along with other agencies, to study the adoption of a statewide automated victim notification system for those who are covered by protective orders.

The bill was sponsored by Reps. Marion McLawhorn (D, Pitt), Deborah Ross (D, Wake), Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D, Wilson) and Garland Pierce (D, Scotland). The law becomes effective July 1.

Bank of America Foundation grants to innovative Wake Forest program

The Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center has announced a \$250,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to support the construction of a Good Manufacturing Process (GMP) facility where engineered organs and tissues will be built. The lead gift will support the construction and equipping of the GMP facility to ensure its compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards.

One of the first uses of the GMP facility will be to apply regenerative medicine technologies to wounded soldiers. The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM) has been selected by the U.S. Department of Defense to co-lead the new Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine, a multi-institutional consortium of research centers. The group's goal is to create tissues for burns and other wounds, craniofacial reconstruction and limb reconstruction that will aid soldiers' rehabilitation.

The GMP facility will require the addition of skilled personnel such as laboratory technicians, equipment maintenance specialists and quality control experts. In its first year, five full-time employees will be required to operate the new facility. As the work advances, and more tissues become ready for clinical development, more personnel will be added.

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