

May I Have This Dance?

Fathers, Daughters Spend Special Evening Together



Dozens of school-aged girls stepped into the doors of the NCC Priory recently dressed in pretty, bright, dresses with smiles to match, a clear signal they were ready for their night out with those special men in their lives--- their dads.

While for years the trend in urban communities has been one of absentee fathers, the Annual Father-Daughter Dance is just one of the many events sponsored by NCC Youth Services that shows this trend is certainly changing. Many fathers seem to be taking a more proactive role in both their children's educational and extracurricular activities.

During the event, attended by more than 100 people, fathers danced with their daughters to tunes such as "Dance with My Father Again" by Luther Vandross and "You're A Big Girl Now" by the Stylistics. There were also testimonies from proud fathers and daughters, raffles and a dance competition for couples.

"It's always good to see so many fathers at this event, which has grown every year", said Ed Morris, NCC Youth Services Director.

The First Annual Father-Daughter Dance was held in 2007. Since then, it has become one of the most anticipated NCC Youth Services events on the calendar. While this year was a first for some of the fathers and daughters, many had participated before. Germil Bull, father of Niaisya, a first grader at New Horizons Community Charter School, wasn't able to attend the dance last year because he was stationed in Iraq. He said he really enjoyed the evening.

"My daughter and I had a great time! It really was a nice event," he said.

What made it so special, he and other fathers expressed, was the opportunity to spend a beautiful night laughing, talking and dancing with their daughters.

For information on upcoming events sponsored by NCC Youth Services, please call (973) 242-7934.

Story and photos contributed by Ed Morris