



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bob Ruthazer, CFLE; Executive Director

First Things First of Greater Richmond  
5200 Grove Ave  
Richmond, VA 23226  
(804) 288-3431  
bob@firstthingsrichmond.org

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST WINS \$25,000 CAPACITY-BUILDING AWARD FROM NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE**

**(Richmond, Virginia)** – First Things First of Greater Richmond has been awarded a \$25,000 capacity-building grant from National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) through the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity Building Initiative (NRFBCBI). Through a competitive process that generated over 300 applications, First Things First was one of 25 organizations chosen from across the country to receive a capacity-building grant. The grant will allow First Things First to increase their capacity to develop fatherhood programming and improve their financial sustainability by becoming more familiar with—and better qualified to receive—federal or private philanthropic support.

First Things First along with the 24 other 2009 Capacity Building Grantees will attend an intensive, weeklong “Certification College,” led by fatherhood experts from NFI who will help grantees cultivate “promising practices” in their leadership development, organizational structure, programming trends, and community connections. Throughout the year, awardees will receive follow-up technical assistance from NFI, including phone consultations, e-mail follow-up, occasional web-based seminars, and other resources. Finally, the grantees will participate in a two-day mini-conference, including assessment and evaluation, that will measure their improvement over the course of the grant period.

“NFI is honored to be able to support First Things First and other organizations across the country as they strive to develop more effective solutions for the fathers in their communities,” said Roland C. Warren, president of NFI. “At a time when 1 in 3 children are growing up apart from their fathers, First Things First should be applauded for its efforts to engage Richmond area fathers in the lives of their children.”

“The research is clear: Involved fathers are extremely important for a child’s development and for a community’s health” said Bob Ruthazer, First Things First Executive Director.

The National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity Building Initiative is a program administered by National Fatherhood Initiative through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Family Assistance. This year’s grantees are the third set of approximately 25 grantees per year that have been assisted by the NRFBCBI since 2007. For more information about the NRFBCBI, visit [www.fatherhood.org/grant](http://www.fatherhood.org/grant).

First Things First is dedicated to strengthening families through education, collaboration and mobilization. In an effort to reverse the trends of destructive relationships and to strengthen the infrastructure of our community, FTF advocates for strong, healthy, lifelong marriage, promotes the activity of both a father and mother in the lives of their children, and works to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies. First Things First provides the nationally acclaimed Boot Camp for New Dads at four area hospitals in a bi-weekly basis. Schedules can be found at [www.FirstThingRichmond.org](http://www.FirstThingRichmond.org) or by calling (804) 288-3431.

The premier fatherhood renewal organization in the country, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) works in every sector and at every level of society to engage fathers in the lives of their children. NFI's national public service advertising campaign promoting fatherhood has generated television, radio, print, Internet, and outdoor advertising valued at over \$500 million. Through its resource center, FatherSOURCE, NFI offers a wide range of innovative resources to assist fathers and organizations interested in reaching and supporting fathers.