

Endurance is defined as the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way.

Do you feel as if you have been asked to endure more then you feel you are able? Work? Family? Child Support? Sobriety? COVID-19?

As a society we are itching to get back to "normal". We are tired of social distancing, facemasks, and hand sanitizer. We don't want to hear "We are all in this together." We want our lives back.

But, for now, we must endure. It is not easy, but we must do what is best for ourselves and those around us. We know that **YOU** have the ability to endure. Do not give up or give in to the tempations around you.

Keep on running the race before you. Use that second wind. Remember, those who endure will conquer.

We are here to help you as you endure the struggles of your daily life. Do not hesitate to reach out to us. 417-501-8867.

Congratulations to the newest Fatherhood Development graduates from New Beginning Sanctuary! Way to go men!



# -Check Out This Video-

Please take a moment to watch this video--it will be worth your time!

The Wisdom of a Third-Grade Dropout



## **Check This Out!**

Pay your child support with a new, quick, secure and contactless mobile payment and digital wallet service through:

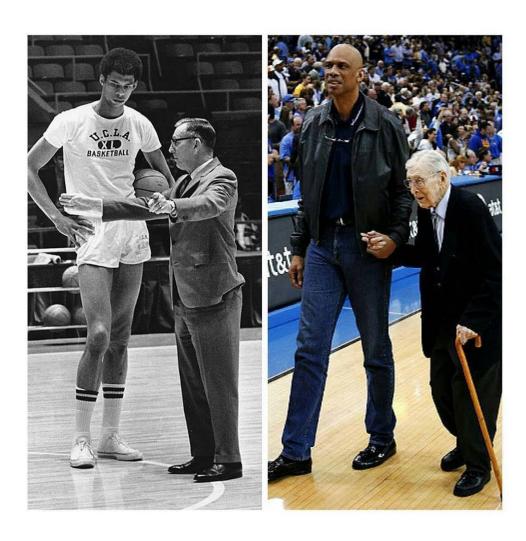
The mobile and digital wallet options allow users to avoid touching buttons or exchanging cash by making payments in IOS and android apps on the internet. A convenience fee of 2.5% for each transaction will apply. Find out more at mo.smartchildsupport.com. Payments can also be made by mail, online, over the phone, and by cash payments at local retailers using PayNearMe.

Got questions? Call 1(800) 859-7999 or visit <a href="https://dss.mo.gov/">https://dss.mo.gov/</a>

# - Helpful Resources -

Pandemic EBT Benefits

- File for Unemployment Benefits
- Special Unemployment Link for COVID-19 crisis
- Legal Services of Southwest Missouri
- Child Support questions? Contact Ra'shad Hibler-Family Support Division 573-751-0980



# **Mentoring: A Life-Changing Experience**

 If you are interested in having a mentor, or if you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Lisa at the Good Dads office. She will assist you in making the connection.

## - NPGD SPOTLIGHT -

### Inspiration From New Pathways Dads

#### **Meet Daniel Jones!**

Daniel had a bumpy life from the start. He grew up in low-income housing on the Illinois side of St. Louis. Because of the poverty level, Daniel had to use his street smarts in order to survive. By the time he was 15 years old, he was a young alcoholic. After a stint in a rock band, he moved to Missouri. He was not making enough money on stage to pay for all the alcohol he was consuming.

Daniel stopped drinking after a car accident. His new crutch was prescription painkillers. At this time, Daniel was married with two small children. The marriage was dead from the start, but he tried to keep it together for the sake of the children. His wife continuously accused him of using methamphetamine. Daniel's thought was, "Since she does not know the difference in my behavior, I might as well use meth." This led to a downhill spiral—Daniel would be arrested, released on probation and violate again. The pattern continued.

In 2017, Daniel and his wife divorced. He was homeless and jobless in a town where the only people that he knew were his ex-wife's family—and they hated him. This location was so remote that getting a job or getting to his Parole Officer was nearly impossible. Daniel dove deeper into substance abuse as well as manufacturing and distributing illegal drugs. Somehow, Daniel was able to stay off the radar and not get charged with drug offenses, but he did violate his probation and was sent to jail.

Daniel spent three months in the county jail with the possibility of spending 8 to 10 years in prison. He defended himself and was able to get his sentence down to four months in the Department of Corrections without treatment. During this time, Daniel's girlfriend gave birth to their baby boy. Finally, Daniel put his life in God's hands and was prepared for prison.

He wrote a letter to the judge and told him that he wanted to go to a sober living program. He told him that if he were to go to prison, he would be released back to homelessness, joblessness, and the probability of running back to drugs; he needed a solid foundation.

On Daniel's next court date, he was called up to court with

acceptance letters for the New Beginning Sanctuary Sober Living/Recovery Program as well as a public defender in his corner. He was released to NBS that day and ordered to be cautious—he was ordered to return for sentencing in three months at which time he could still be sent to prison.

Three months later Daniel returned to court for his sentencing. His fiancé and new baby were by his side. Daniel was expecting prison but hoping and praying for release. He had letters from his counselor, his program director, and his boss. To the astonishment of Daniel and his fiancé, the judge overturned the ruling on his case, stating, "Daniel was a victim of his own success."

Daniel was sentenced to complete the recovery program in which he was enrolled. Two months later, he became a house manager at NBS and started in the New Pathways for Good Dads program. He kept expecting the worst, but it never came!

2020 has been a big year for Daniel. His relationship with his children from his first marriage has been restored. In February, Daniel married Jessica, the mother of his third child. Together they have gotten sober and have remained sober. In March, Daniel graduated from the New Beginning Sanctuary program. He also completed all requirements for the New Pathways for Good Dads program and will be graduating from the NPGD program this summer. Daniel also landed a job at an auto repair shop.

Daniel states, "I have a new family and an unbelievable life that I've never had before. I am not rich, but I am not where I was. I have an awesome family and support system. I get to see my kids whenever I want. I even went into the courtroom and thanked the judge for giving me the opportunity to make something of myself. Doing this renewed his faith that people can change, programs can work, and people can recover and become someone if they just open their minds."

Take the chance. Try. Have faith in yourself.

## Congratulations Daniel!



Daniel with his wife, Jessica, step-daughter, Alexis, and sons Riley, Aidan, and Cloud

#### New Pathways for Good Dads

# - Upcoming Classes -

More Fatherhood Development classes and Within My Reach relationship classes are on the horizon. If you or someone you know is interested in the FDC or the WMR please contact the Good Dads office. We will add you to our upcoming class lists.

For more information or to enroll, call the Good Dads office at 417-501-8867.

# This Week's Featured - Good Dads Podcast -

E361 DAD vs DAD - Paul vs Brian

Paul Windisch and Brian Tindall compete in "DAD vs DAD," which is a list of dad jokes. Whoever laughs the most... loses!

Click below to listen to an episode on <u>iTunes</u>, or search on any other favorite podcast player - we're on Google Play, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, and more.



#### - Check this out!-

A camp experience for the whole family! (And it is free for NPGD men and their families!)



-GOODDADS.COM-

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