



The #1 definition of the word "example" in the Merriam Webster dictionary is "one that serves as a pattern to be imitated or not to be imitated." How are you as an example? Do you want your children to follow your example?

The dads in the New Pathways for Good Dads program are making great strides in their efforts to be good dads. Keep on working hard. Keep on doing the right thing. Keep on setting the example that you desire your children to imitate. We know that you can do it!

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## **Counseling for dads in the New Pathways for Good Dads program!**

Dads that are enrolled in the New Pathways for Good Dads program and have completed at least 4 weeks of the Fatherhood Development Course are eligible to receive counseling on a sliding scale. Counseling will be done with Drew Dilisio, a PLPC, under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Baker. Call the Good Dads office for more details.

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## **- NPGD SPOTLIGHT -**

*Inspiration From New Pathways Dads*

**Meet Robert (Bobby) Pullin**



“Success is earned, not given.” This phrase is one you will hear quite frequently from Robert (Bobby) Pullin. Bobby’s life proves that his successes have been earned. He also admits that his struggles have come because of his own poor choices.

Bobby joined the Army in 1975. He fought in Vietnam. After serving the United States proudly in the Army and the Army National Guard for a number of years, Bobby was honorably discharged from both branches of service.

After his military service, Bobby found himself making choices that did not help him succeed. He called himself a “daredevil”. Fast cars were his nemesis. This lifestyle did not work well for a man married with children.

Bobby and his wife eventually split, and he turned to alcohol. He changed jobs frequently and in time lost his driver’s license.

While in the Army, Bobby had spent time in Missouri for his basic training and AIT. He enjoyed the area and felt that in order to succeed perhaps a permanent move to Missouri was just what he needed. In 1999, Bobby made Missouri his home.

Life in Missouri was not without its challenges. Poor choices, alcohol, and a son that he does not have contact with have caused many issues for Bobby. Though not easy, Bobby knew that in order to succeed and “right the wrongs” in his life, he needed to pull himself up and work toward the one thing he so desperately desires—seeing his son again.

In 2018, Bobby visited the VA clinic where he received information on the New Pathways for Good Dads program. After a time, he enrolled in NPGD. It was not always smooth sailing, but when Bobby realized that Good Dads was willing to help, he jumped in with both feet!

Bobby is earning his success. He says, “New Pathways for Good Dads has given him a positive outlook. A person just needs to be willing to take the steps to move forward.” He is not letting his mistakes define him.

There have been many successes in Bobby’s life. He has five journeyman certificates in various trades and one culinary degree. Bobby has a huge heart, he is always willing to help others in need, and he volunteers one day a week at the Good Dads office to give back to the organization that has invested in him. He has completed New Pathways for Good Dads and graduated from the program in July. Bobby said, “Good Dads has been a blessing to me. The facilitators, the classes, the food, the classmates, and the case managers have all been great!”

Bobby still has not been able to reconnect with his son or get his driver’s license back, but he is not giving up hope. He knows that he needs to earn his success; it will not be given to him.

Keep striving Bobby. With your determination, we are sure that you will achieve your goals!

## **Congratulations Bobby!**

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### **Ask Drew!**

**Drew,**

My wife and I are expecting our first baby and although I have read some books, I am very nervous. What is a piece of advice you wished someone had told



you right before you took your newborn home from the hospital? What is the biggest surprise parenting has brought you? What are some things you wish you had not stressed over as a new parent?

**Thank you,**

**Anxious Dad to Be**

**Dear Anxious Dad to Be,**

I agree with you. You can read many parenting books, but until that little human sack of potatoes is snuggled up in your arms, you really have no clue what is about to happen to you.

For me, I think the biggest piece of advice I wish someone had told me before taking my daughter home was that they are tougher than you think. That first night was a little bit eventful for my family.

There was a period when my mom, dad, and I were in a hospital waiting room with my daughter at 1:00 am, and I could not stop checking on her. I was constantly checking her breathing. I was paranoid to say the least.

Eventually my dad handed me a cup of coffee, told me to sit down, and said to me, " She is a fighter and she is doing what God designed her to do...breathe.

Therefore you go sit down and breathe."

As far as the biggest surprise that parenting has brought me has to be seeing her personality develop.

When I say things, and she copies them with sarcasm, or when she makes certain faces, I am reminded how she is her own person. I cannot wait to see how her personality continues to develop.

As far as things that we should not stress over as parents, I would say messiness. Let them eat and get dirty, let them play and get dirty, let them explore and get dirty. Yes, it may require you to bathe them more, but it is good for their cognitive development, and it is good for you to let go of some of your control.

**Hope this helps,  
Drew**

**If you have something on your mind,  
just ask Drew!**

Call or text Drew at **417-427-6364**. Your call or text message will remain confidential--your name will not be used with your question. Questions and answers may be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

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## **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](http://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 <https://dss.mo.gov/>**

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## **- Helpful Resources -**

- Here is a **NEW** resource for those who are struggling with shared visitation during COVID-19. Crisis Planning is necessary for the children's benefit, as well as for your own benefit.
  - Pandemic EBT Benefits
  - File for Unemployment Benefits
  - Special Unemployment Link for COVID-19 crisis
  - Legal Services of Southwest Missouri
  - Child Support questions? Contact Daylon Tillman-- Family Support Division 417-895-6077
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*New Pathways for Good Dads*

## **- Upcoming Classes -**

A new **Fatherhood Development Course** will begin on October 7, 2020, at New Beginning Sanctuary. A light meal will be served at 6:00 and class will begin promptly at 6:30. This class will last approximately 15 weeks. Spots are filling up quickly. Call the Good Dads office to reserve your seat today! 417-501-8867

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*This Week's Featured*

## **- Good Dads Podcast -**



## E370 Back to School

We talk about parents and children grieving the loss of a "normal" school year and how to prepare for back to school.

*Click below to listen to an episode on [iTunes](#), or search on any other favorite podcast player -  
- we're on [Google Play](#), [Stitcher](#), [Spotify](#), [TuneIn](#), and more.*



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