



January 8, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

With a tremendous spirit of enthusiasm, I am pleased to write this letter of endorsement for Marvin Charles and the D.A.D.S. Program.

America faces a crisis of fatherlessness, especially in our urban centers where up to 80% of children live in homes without their biological father. This physical separation between father and child has a tremendously negative impact on the children and on our society. But efforts to deal with this problem must reach to the hearts of the men, the fathers, who themselves are victims of the father wound.

The need to reach the hearts of men is the reason I admire the work of Marvin Charles. For Marvin knows – has experienced himself – the wounded heart condition that impacts so many African-American men. Marvin has been down the road of brokenness, pain and separation. And, he has traveled back on the road of reconciliation, renewal and reconnection. It is through his own personal experiences that Marvin is able to reach out to men and help them find their own way along the path.

Marvin is leading men one at a time on the path to self-respect and healthy relationships. Through the D.A.D.S. Program, Marvin and his wife, Jeanett, are providing practical assistance to fathers wanting to connect with and support their children. Their work has been recognized by community, government and faith leaders. Because of this, Marvin has established himself as a leader in his community, indeed his state, as an advocate for fathers and families that are struggling to do the right thing.

Marvin Charles is doing the right thing for the right reasons and he is doing it the right way – reaching out to the hearts of fathers, showing them a different way and equipping them with the practical tools needed to be successful in their roles as a father, employee and citizen. I applaud Marvin Charles and the D.A.D.S. Program and whole-heartedly support the work he is doing to build stronger fathers and healthier communities in the greater Seattle area.

Sincerely,

Ken R. Canfield
President and Founder