



A POSITIVE STEP OF MONROE COUNTY

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Chief Sean T. Brandenburg
Key West Police Department
1604 North Roosevelt Blvd
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Chief Brandenburg,

On behalf of A Positive Step of Monroe County, Inc. (APSMC), I respectfully request a contribution of \$1,500 from the Key West Police Department in support of our ongoing work to strengthen families, reduce juvenile crime, and build safer communities.

Founded in 1999 under the auspices of the Monroe County School Board, APSMC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has served high-risk children, families, and justice-involved individuals for more than 25 years. Our mission is clear: to improve the lives of at-risk youth and strengthen the role of fathers in their families. We are proud to partner with law enforcement and community leaders to reduce delinquency, dependency, and family instability across Monroe County.

One of our core programs, the Southernmost Fatherhood Initiative, is the only fatherhood program in the Florida Keys that provides in-person services at the Monroe County Detention Center. Since 2018, fathers have participated in evidence-based classes that address the root causes of father absence and strengthen families. To ensure accessibility and impact, APSMC delivers these services in English, Spanish, and Creole, reaching diverse communities across the Keys.

The urgency of this work cannot be overstated. Research shows that children raised in father-absent homes face:

- 4x greater risk of poverty
- 2x greater risk of infant mortality
- More likely to have behavioral problems or drop out of school
- 7x more likely to become pregnant as teenagers
- More likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, commit crimes, or be incarcerated themselves (National Fatherhood Initiative, 2023)

These statistics demonstrate a direct connection between absent fathers and the challenges that strain our law enforcement and social service systems. By engaging fathers who are incarcerated, on probation, or struggling to meet their parental responsibilities, the Southernmost Fatherhood Initiative interrupts cycles of poverty, neglect, and crime. Fathers gain tools to improve co-parenting, increase financial stability, and take responsibility for their children's well-being, strengthening not only their families, but also the safety and stability of our community.

Our partnership with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has allowed us to expand services within the detention center, and we are eager to deepen collaboration with the Key West Police Department. Your support will help us sustain programming for justice-involved fathers and ensure that classes remain accessible to those who need them most.

A contribution of \$1,500 will directly support program materials, incentives for demonstrated improvements, and one-on-one sessions for fathers who are unable to attend group classes. This investment is modest, but the impact is profound, fewer children growing up without a father's presence, fewer families destabilized by crime, and ultimately, fewer demands placed on our law enforcement system.

APSMC has earned a reputation for transparency, accountability, and effectiveness. For over 25 years, we have maintained full compliance with funding requirements, never losing a contract or failing to meet performance standards. With your partnership, we will continue to provide vital prevention and intervention services that uplift fathers, support children, and enhance community safety across Monroe County.

Thank you for considering this request. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss how we can work together to make a lasting difference in the lives of Monroe County families.

Respectfully,



Billy Davis
Executive Director
A Positive Step of Monroe County, Inc.