



**AFFIRMING FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE**  
**"A CELEBRATION OF FATHERHOOD"**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2024**

Children's Board of Hillsborough County  
1002 E. Palm Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33605

**REACHUP**  
where there's a will, we are the way



Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)



# Serving Children & Families in Hillsborough County since 1988.

The Children's Board invests in programs to promote the well-being of all children and families in Hillsborough County. Through strategic investments we are ensuring Hillsborough County children get the best possible start in life.

Our funding ensures:

- Children are Healthy and Safe
- Children are Developmentally on Track
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Our vision is that Hillsborough County will be recognized as one of the top places in the nation to raise children.




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# WELCOME TO REACHUP, Inc.'s 2024 AFFIRMING FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE



I am so excited that you made the decision to be part of this Conference, demonstrating your understanding of how critical it is to affirm our fathers and fatherhood. Our Planning Team has worked diligently to organize and plan a forum where we can learn and share in a relaxed atmosphere. And for our out of state guests, I extend a special welcome from the best part of the Sunshine State -Tampa, Florida.

The default family paradigm typically focuses on the family as a mother and her children. This emphasis relegates fathers to a diminished role, marginalizing their potential and their importance. Today we acknowledge that when fathers are more involved in pregnancy and parenting, and in working with mothers as co-parents and partners, healthier families and healthier children are the outcome.

We are here to celebrate the fathers who have stepped into this important stage and take a deep dive into some of the situations that can directly impact their commitment to being good fathers. This Conference is one of the ways we can support and encourage these men to continue in their willingness and commitment to make a difference in their children's lives. Additionally, we salute the service providers who are capitalizing on the huge opportunities to help our children by focusing on their fathers as well as their mothers.

**Nicola Bailey**  
**President / CEO, REACHUP, Inc.**



Welcome to our annual Affirming Fatherhood Conference! We thank you for deciding to participate with us as we Celebrate Fatherhood. We started our first Conference in 2010, and since then the Fatherhood arena has grown tremendously, and you are all a part of it.

2024 is no different, through the various presenters and celebrations we hope you will find some tools to help you in this work. We remain committed to equipping, supporting and valuing fathers and men in their role and responsibility to children, families, and communities and we hope that this conference will strengthen your commitment to do the same.

Thank you for being here, for those of you from out of town, we welcome you to the Tampa Bay area and hope you will enjoy your stay. We encourage you to take time during the conference to network, ask questions, and share experiences that can help us all continue this work of Affirming Fatherhood.

**All the best,**  
**AFC Planning Team 2024**

# Friday, September 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. – **Registration**

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – **Greetings**

**Nicola Bailey, President/CEO REACHUP, Inc.**

**James Wilkerson, REACHUP, Inc. Board of Directors**

**Maria Negron, Director of Programs, Children's Board of Hillsborough County**

9:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. – Ice Breaker

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Michael Thomas, One More Child, Executive Director of Family Support-“Why We Affirm Fathers”**

10:20 a.m. – **Raffle/Giveaways**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – **Dr Ronee Wilson, PhD, MPH, CPH, Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiologist, Associate Professor, College of Public Health University of South Florida. “What the Numbers say about Fatherhood”**

11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Hall of Fame Inductees “Class of 2024”**

12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. – **Lunch/Networking**

1:05 p.m. – **Raffle/Giveaways**

1:10 p.m.–2:10 p.m. – **Dr. Michael Mays, DMin, LMFT, COO, AMaysing Services, Inc. “Engaging Fathers and Men”**

2:15 p.m. – **Raffle/Give-aways**

2:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – **Sarah Keith, WEDU/PBS “Activities Fathers can do to Engage with their Children”**

3:10 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – **Daryl Clark, Children's Board of Hillsborough County- “Fatherhood Alliance”**

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – **Survey/Wrap -up/Pledge**

# Presenters



**Michael Thomas** serves One More Child as the Executive Director of Family Support – Hope Street, where we are working to transform lives in the inner city of Tampa. For nearly twenty years, Michael has been a passionate advocate for families and the community through counseling and training others on how to overcome obstacles and find their true passions in life. His philosophy on ministry, as he has been known to often quote is: *“People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care!”* Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Michael graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. Michael has been a licensed and ordained minister for twenty-two years and is also a certified Relationship Coach teaching people how to communicate and have lasting relationships through his workshops and seminars. He is currently pursuing a master of divinity degree from Liberty University. Through Michael’s outreach ministries and community projects, he has been able to impact the lives of thousands through his commitment to work with state officials and community leaders to empower low-income neighborhoods and at-risk families. Out of this passion he founded Impact Now LLC, a mentoring program and consulting service for fathers, teen dads, and at-risk males between the ages of eight and eighteen.



**Dr. Roneé Wilson** is a Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiologist with expertise in equity-focused community-engaged research and evaluation. She currently serves as the Director of the Community Hub in the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida. She is the Lead Evaluator for several community-based programs designed to improve health and wellness outcomes from mothers, fathers, and families.



**Dr. Michael D. Mays** is an Ordained Minister and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) with many years of experience. He is certified in Christian, trauma, and addictions counseling. Michael is also certified in Accelerated Resolution Therapy and Collaborative Communication. Dr. Mays is the Chief Operations Officer of AMaysing Services where he has the honor of working alongside his wife of over 36 years and his oldest daughter. His continuous goal is to guide individuals, couples and families into healthier relationships with God and one another. Dr. Mays received his Doctor of Ministry from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Biblical Counseling, a Master of Arts from Argosy University in Marriage and Family Therapy, a Master of Arts in Theology from Saint Leo University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Saint Leo University. Dr. Mays is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. He is a Florida State Certified Mental Health and Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor, helping to grow his profession. In 2007 Michael retired from the United States Air Force after 24 years of faithful service. Because of his time in the service, he dedicates himself to helping veterans. He has been a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for over 40+ years and is devoted to mentoring men in all areas of their lives. Dr. Mays believes after his marriage to his wife his greatest blessing is to be the dad to Carmon and Chryston, their daughters, and a positive fatherly influence on Jonecia and Duana, their bonus children. Finally, Dr. Mays’ favorite past time is being with his family.

## Presenters cont.

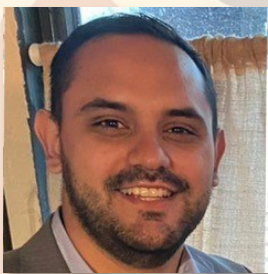


**Sarah Keith** has been a training specialist in the education department at WEDU PBS for 6 years. Using valuable PBS digital resources, she provides family and parent workshops and educator trainings on a range of topics. Sarah began her career as an Elementary School Teacher in 1996 and then continued her education with a Masters of Education in School Counseling. After her first daughter of three was born, she paused her career but volunteered in the school systems that her children attended. She returned to paid employment in 2019 as an instructor for More Health, a non-profit organization providing health instruction to K-12 students. Later that same year, she joined WEDU as a freelance training specialist. Sarah has successfully worked with a variety of nonprofits across 11 counties in the WEDU education service area. The families and educators who use the resources available through PBS consistently rank the digital materials as valuable and return to attend additional trainings and events, hosted by WEDU and Sarah Keith.

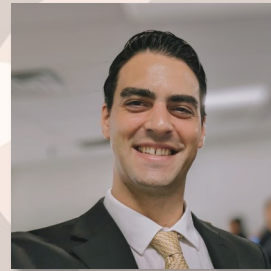


**Daryl Clark** is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in public administration, project management, and human services. He holds a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Project Management, both from Keller Graduate School of Management, and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University. Currently serving as the Senior Contract Manager at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Daryl oversees the negotiation and administration of contracts, ensuring adherence to legal standards and supporting program objectives. Prior to this role, he was a Human Services Supervisor at Hillsborough County Social Services, where he managed social service programs and led a team of professionals in delivering quality services. Daryl's career includes significant roles such as Male Involvement Coordinator at REACHUP, Inc., where he developed a program linking men to community health resources, and Dean of Students at Woodmont Charter School, where he focused on educational quality and student behavior. As Program Director at Eckerd Kids, he managed a substantial budget and expanded educational services for foster youth, demonstrating a strong ability to improve program outcomes. With a robust background in case management and client services from his tenure at Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start, Daryl brings a wealth of experience in counseling, crisis intervention, and financial oversight. Daryl launched The Hillsborough Fatherhood Alliance in October 2023. The Hillsborough Fatherhood Alliance is dedicated to empowering and supporting men in actively participating in their children's lives. With a mission to provide love, guidance, and stability, the Alliance encourages men to surpass societal norms and foster positive parental impact. The vision is to create a society where every child benefits from a nurturing fatherly influence, aiming for better futures, healthier families, and a more compassionate community.

# Hall of Fame Inductees Class of 2024



**Simon Landinez**



**Emilio Rodriguez Pla**



**Dr. Michael Mays**



**Dr. Michael Mays family**



**Charles McLaurin**



**Taylor Navarrete**



**Taylor Navarrete family**





**Simon Landinez** is 33 years old, an Agricultural Engineer by profession. Colombian immigrant approximately 6 years ago. I have experience in the agricultural productive sector, but after arriving in the United States, I also added experience in cleaning, restaurants and deliveries. I am currently working for UFP Industries, a company dedicated to the commercialization of wood, by being part of the production team. My greatest achievement has been being the father of a beautiful little boy, Daniel, and I would like to use the experience I have accumulated in life and fatherhood skills learned in the 24:7 DAD program to give values and foundations to my son so that he can follow his own path.



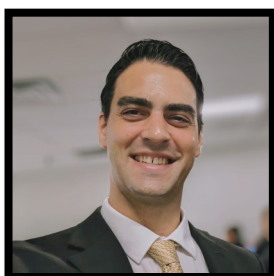
**Dr. Michael D. Mays** is an Ordained Minister and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) with many years of experience. He is certified in Christian, trauma, and addictions counseling. Michael is also certified in Accelerated Resolution Therapy and Collaborative Communication. Dr. Mays is the Chief Operations Officer of AMaysing Services where he has the honor of working alongside his wife of over 36 years and his oldest daughter. His continuous goal is to guide individuals, couples and families into healthier relationships with God and one another. Dr. Mays received his Doctor of Ministry from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Biblical Counseling, a Master of Arts from Argosy University in Marriage and Family Therapy, a Master of Arts in Theology from Saint Leo University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Saint Leo University. Dr. Mays is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. He is a Florida State Certified Mental Health and Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor, helping to grow his profession. In 2007 Michael retired from the United States Air Force after 24 years of faithful service. Because of his time in the service, he dedicates himself to helping veterans. He has been a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for over 40+ years and is devoted to mentoring men in all areas of their lives. Dr. Mays believes after his marriage to his wife his greatest blessing is to be the dad to Carmon and Chryston, their daughters, and a positive fatherly influence on Jonesia and Duana, their bonus children. Finally, Dr. Mays' favorite past time is being with his family.



**Charles McLaurin** is a career military retiree. He served in the United States Air Force for more than 25 years, working in the Directorate of Personnel Programs. He held several leadership positions including Personnel Career Manager responsible to interpret and implement policies; develops guidance, standards and processes; coordinates and deploys standards, systems, programs, procedures and action for the Department of the Air Force military and civilian personnel programs portfolios. His interests, among a number of things, include traveling, riding motorcycles, uplifts communities through charity work, and attending jazz festivals.



**Taylor Navarrete** is from Buenaventura Colombia. I arrived in the 80's to Tampa, FL. Here, I got married and have 4 adult children and 7 grandchildren. Currently, I am not working, but I take care of my father-in-law and my 4-year-old grandson. In a difficult moment in my life, which was in 2003, I accepted the greatest gift, which was Christ Jesus. Since then, He no longer blamed me for past mistakes. I have been active in the Christian Restoration Church pastored by Pastor Miguel Maysonet II for 10 years.



**Emilio Rodriguez Pla** is 35 years old, born in a small, coastal town in Galicia, Spain. I moved to the USA (Tampa) last year to be closer to my wife's family, and I am a new father to my beautiful first baby girl, Elizabeth Angelina, who just turned nine months. I have a background in green energy (Wind Power), but truly the best job I have ever had is being a dad. I love seeing her wake up, look at me and smile, I love reading to her, I love playing with her, making her laugh, singing to her... everyday!



## **AFC 2024 Planning Team**

**Onri Austin – REACHUP, Inc**

**Cheryl Fitzpatrick - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Bryan Jeffers – REACHUP, Inc.**

**Elizabeth Newman - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Greyling Wall - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Jeff Rock - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Juan Rea – REACHUP, Inc**

**Lillian Cox - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Maribel Raudales - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Michael Morgan - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Ricardo Busquets - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Ruth Revilla - REACHUP, Inc.**

**Valeria Pimienta - REACHUP, Inc.**