



Christopher Gardner has been more of a father to his son, Christopher Gardner Jr., than he ever had

These are famous fathers who have given more than they got, and have therefore reduced their Dad Deficits.

Barack Obama

The 44th president of the U.S. was raised in Hawaii and Indonesia, living with his mom and his grandparents at different times. His father, who separated from his mother when he was 2, moved back to Kenya, and died in 1982. Obama has two daughters with whom he is often seen holding hands, kissing and hugging. And it appears to be more than photo-ops: in interviews, he clearly knows and cares deeply for his kids. While his campaigning and current job have kept him at work most of the time, he makes it a priority to be present for parent-teacher conferences and regular family meals.

Christopher Gardner

This is the real guy whom Will Smith played in the movie, *The Pursuit of Happyness*. Gardner was born in Milwaukee. His father was never around, and his step-dad was allegedly abusive. As an adult, Gardner went in and out of jobs, and lived in a shelter at times. But after he had a son, and things didn't work out with the mother of his child, he took sole custody and cared for him. Gardner juggled fatherhood (he also has a daughter) and training to become a stockbroker, until he became the CEO of his own company.

Dr. Ben Carson

One of the most revered doctors in the world, Dr. Carson was raised in Detroit, from the age of 8, by his mother after she was divorced from his father (she had married him when she was 13). Alienated and angry as a youth, even called "a dummy," Carson eventually turned things around, listened to his mother and committed himself to school work. He went on to get a medical degree, and is now director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins. He's also a father. He has three sons with his wife and he has spoken of his kids with the same dedication he has demonstrated in his profession, whether it's about playing ping-pong or pool, attending Church or making sure family time is reserved in his busy schedule.

Bill Clinton

The 42nd president never had a father: he was killed in a car accident before Clinton was even born. Clinton grew up in Arkansas, raised by his grandparents and his mother, who eventually remarried a man who was abusive and an alcoholic. Clinton and his wife, Hilary, had their only child, Chelsea, in 1980. Clinton appears to have been an involved and loving father (he used to bring Chelsea to school every day and he had a miniature desk for her in his office when he was governor of Arkansas). And while the Monica Lewinsky scandal suggests he has strayed from being the best of father figures, he appears to still have a strong relationship with his now adult daughter.

Lamar Odom

The Los Angeles Lakers star forward had a rough start: his father was a heroin addict, and his mother passed away when he was 12. Raised by his grandmother in Queens, he played three years of high school basketball at Christ the King before his college and then professional career. In addition to winning championships with the Lakers, he has two children (one of his infant sons died), and he is known for his charitable work, particularly for inner city youth.