

NYCDADS FATHERS DAY BBQ



Fathers Day 2010, in New York City, will be remembered as a hot, hot day. It reached the mid-90s, but it felt a whole lot hotter for those people standing on line for food near the flaming grills at the NYC DADS barbecue in Prospect Park.



Yes, it was hot. But that won't be the strongest memory for Jomo Henry, Sr, who was chilling in the shade, watching his 5-year-old son, Jomo, Jr, running through the nearby obstacle course. Usually, Jomo and his son wear matching outfits on Fathers Day, but not today. They were having a ball just being together. "The best thing about being a dad is figuring out how excited they get when you come home," Henry says. "It's really cool."



Chris Bain also didn't look phased by the heat—he was grinning from ear to ear, watching his daughters, Vanessa and Charlotte, bouncing in the bouncy castle. "They make you smile," Bain says. Dean Crawford held his baby girl, Genevieve, close, bouncing her slightly, keeping her entertained. "I'm proud to be an NYC dad," says the Brooklyn local.



All of these fathers—and hundreds more—were at the barbecue with their families. They were playing miniature golf and helping their kids throw beanbags at the carnival games. One might think that for Fathers Day, a dad would choose to sleep in the whole day. Or watch the game. But these dads chose to be with their families, and chose to do the daddy thing.



And they had their hands full. They were there holding their kids' prizes from the carnival games or the balloons twisted into fanciful shapes. They were there waiting on that food line, balancing heaping plates of corn and burgers and chicken for their kids. They were there, tracking down missing shoes for their kids zooming down the buccanier slide.

On Fathers Day, dads get a lot of encouragement. When they walk on the street, people smile at the sight of them with their kids, and they say, "Happy Fathers Day!" It's a great feeling. But it's even more special when dads are at a Fathers Day gathering like the NYC DADS barbecue, and they hear others dads saying the same thing to each other. They say it with a knowing, proud look in their eyes.

It's a brotherhood of men who all know what each other goes through day to day—the good and the bad. And, as on full display at the NYC DADS BBQ, it makes them smile.