

NYC DADS

HOLIDAY PARTY

2013



"Daddy!"

That excited exclamation was heard on the dance floor, at the arts & crafts table, and, of course, on the line to meet Santa. Children pulled their fathers' sleeves and pushed them here and there. And the dads followed, smiling.

The NYC DADS Holiday party was held this year at the Museum of the Moving Image, and it was a great success, thanks to all of the dads who came out, from the NYC DADS community, our friends at Forestdale, Food First, DHS, and a welcome surge of support from the families of nearby P.S. 166.

"The atmosphere here is so awesome," said Estefan, who lives two blocks away from the museum. As the band played "Feliz Navidad," Estefan caught his breath after dancing with his seven-year-old daughter Melanie. "This is great."

"It's nice to see all these dads involved in their kids' lives," said Ronald, originally from Guyana, but now living in Brooklyn. He was also on the dance floor, dancing with his two daughters. "Times like these add to a man's self esteem."

The City's Fatherhood Coordinator, Alan Farrell, a proud new pappa himself, was on hand for the festivities. "This year's NYC DADS Holiday party was a great illustration of what our effort is all about. Fathers, mothers and families enjoying one another," he said.

While some families kept to the dancing, others made wreaths at the arts and crafts table, got their faces painted, sat with Santa or took a turn at the spin wheel, where they could win prizes. Every child received a book, thanks to Random House publishers. And there was also a raffle with a Build-A-Bear, a Nets Jersey and a Chelsea Piers-donated bicycle.

The Museum was open to all attendees of the party, and for those who headed to the third floor, NYC DADS sponsored flip books that allowed families to make fun-filled mementos of the event. A picture can say so much, and these images—of dads flailing their arms, kids jumping up and down, and everyone laughing—said it all.

"This is a happy time," said Nahshon, from Brooklyn, who watched on as his two daughters busily worked at the wreath-making table. "Most of my friends are dads. I think they would have liked to be here tonight."

