



The NYC DADS Holiday Party



Didn't you hear? Santa Claus came to the Museum of the City of New York on the night of December 17th, where he was greeted by more than 300 kids, dads, moms and other relatives and friends. While a line waited to meet the big man himself on the second floor, there was plenty of fun happening on the floors below, where HRA and the NYC DADS initiative provided arts and crafts, festive food, a photo booth, and live music being played by the sensational Louie and Subanda.

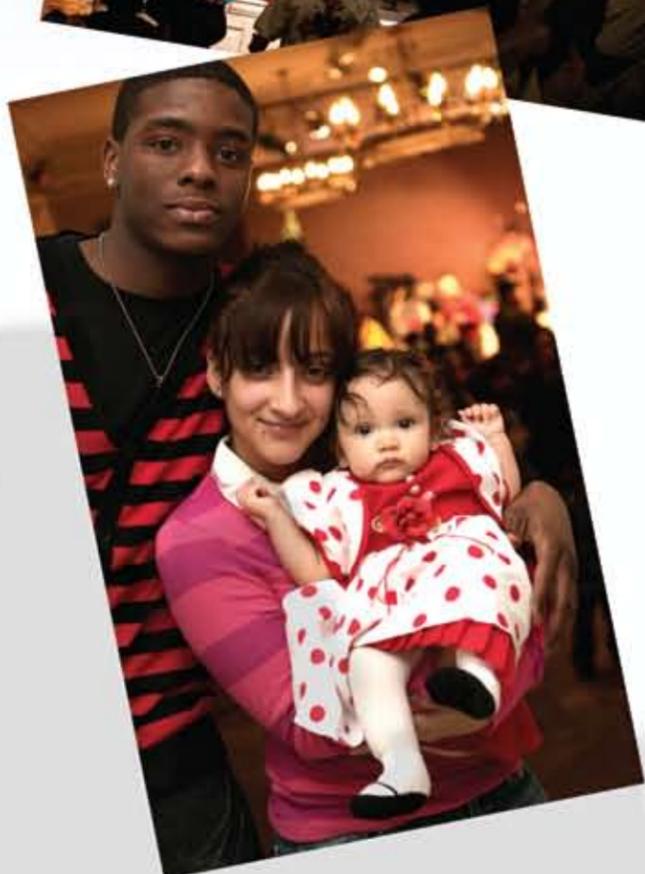


"This is beautiful," said Kendall, a father of three from Manhattan. "Especially now with the economy, this is a gift. My kids are loving it."

Most of the fun was happening, of course, on the dance floor, where Louie and Subanda led the kids in sing-alongs, dance-alongs, and a hilarious round of parachute popping. The kids were laughing, bouncing into each other, and, yes, occasionally crying. And the dads? They were smiling.



NYC Fatherhood Coordinator Alan Farrell greeted families on the main floor. "This is what it's all about," Farrell said looking at one little girl holding on to her daddy. True, many had come to see Santa, but it was the fathers who were the greatest stars on this night, whether it was the young dad feeding his infant with a bottle, or the older father hugging his son who was crying.



Being a father is no easy task; just ask Sonny, who concedes that the hardest thing about being a father is to see his three kids get sick. Tonight, however, his family came down from the Bronx in good health and high spirits.

Sonny has a lot of friends who are parents, but who aren't active in their kids' lives. "There are a lot of hard headed people," he says, shaking his head. "They don't grasp what it is for a child to lose one of their parents."

It's something Sonny knows well, because he raised himself. "I never had an active parent for me," he says with a twinkle in his eye that could outsparkle Santa's. "So I try to be there for my kids."