

February 13, 2013 - TYRO Fraternity Launched!

Once a TYRO has completed the TYRO Dads program and been 'pinned', their next question is, "where do I go from here"? There are likely seeking support both from their family and community, but they are also recognizing the need to receive support and encouragement from those who are "walking in their shoes". Sometimes, you just need to talk with another TYRO, once who has experienced the same struggles as you have. For those men who have been released (or that participated in the TYRO Program as an outside client), there is a solution. That is where the TYRO Fraternity comes in!

The goal of the TYRO Fraternity is to bring together those men who have completed the TYRO program but are looking for encouragement and support. It allows those of us here at The RIDGE Project to maintain open communication with fellow TYROs, but our primary goal is to create a statewide network of TYROs where these men can share their struggles and successes with each other and find other support (such as job opportunities, etc.).

We recently hosted three regional TYRO Fraternity events in Ohio: Canton, Dayton, and Toledo. There were over 100 TYRO fathers along with their families who attended these initial events. The Regional Director facilitated each event with CO-Executive Director Ron Tijerina sharing at each event, challenging each man to remember those things he learned in the TYRO program and to continue to apply those principles to their lives. Several men had the opportunity to share how they had been impacted by The RIDGE Project programming and were now striving to be "men worth following". We hope to continue these regional meetings on a quarterly basis but also highly encourage each of these TYROs to create relationships between each other and to meet regularly...to give support and encouragement.

Remember, a TYRO recognizes the following principle, "Are you rooting for the guy next to you? If not, don't get mad when no one is rooting for you". We all need each

other to succeed. We would encourage you to do two things: find a TYRO that can be a mentor to you, and be the TYRO that another will seek to model.

If you have completed the TYRO Program and are not incarcerated, contact your Facilitator or Regional Director for information on how to join The Fraternity of TYROs! If you no longer are in contact with them but want further information OR if you know a TYRO who would like to join, please contact our office at 419-278-0092 and we will put you in contact with a Regional Director.

Completion of the TYRO Program is just the first step. Now that you have the tools to succeed, join with others who have learned those same skills. Join The TYRO Fraternity!