

Submitted by:

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4th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance a Success

The dance floor was “poppin’ and lockin’” at Putnam County’s fourth annual Daddy Daughter Dance on April 16th. Over 40 Dads (or other male caregivers) and 50 young ladies attended the event hosted by the Putnam County Partners in Prevention (PCPP) Coalition. With a DJ playing only the most current popular music such as Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, and Demi Lovato; the girls packed the dance floor to show off their dancing skills.

The PCPP, which hosted the event, promotes healthy lifestyles and strong families in our community through education, awareness, alternative activities, and advocacy. The event, intended for fathers (or other male caregivers) and daughters, is created to increase the community’s awareness of protective factors and pro-social involvement.

Protective factors are conditions in families and communities that increase the health and well-being of children and families. These attributes serve as buffers, helping parents to find resources, supports, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress.

Research has shown that children who experience protective factors in their early years get better academic grades, exhibit healthier behavior, are likely to be emotionally secure, and are confident in exploring their surroundings. They also have better social connections with peers as they grow older, are less likely to get in trouble at home and school, and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

The protective factors that the girls experienced during the dance include pro-social involvement, bonding to peers, bonding to family and social skills. The dance also opens a line of communication between females and their male role models. In addition, the dance provided the girls an opportunity to learn from their fathers how they should be treated by men.

The event is funded by ACT Missouri and the Putnam County Partners in Prevention. The next bonding event that will be held by the Putnam County Partners in Prevention will be the third annual “Mother/Son Hike.” Watch for details in the fall.