

569 children throughout the Washington DC area enrolled in Grades 1 through 12 wrote essays about how important, their Father, Their Grandfather or Father Figure means to their lives and their well being. The field was narrowed down to 36 Finalists. 11 of Whom were honored for their writings on June 8th--while five more Fathers were honored as Father Of The Year Finalists. One Deserving Man was named "Father of The Year".



The Program runs with the support of The National Center for Fathering. The Kansas City, Missouri Non-Profit which pursues the goal of Father's taking the lead in their children's lives-not walking away. Minnesota Twins and Kansas City Royals also participate in an Essay Contest in their respective cities.



"There is nothing greater than this program," stated Alphonso Maldon, Jr. Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Our Washington Nationals. "Everything we do with The Fathering Center. Everything you do to contribute to the success of this program—makes tomorrow a better day for all of us."



Standing before a packed house in Suite 31 at New Nationals Park, Mr. Maldon shared the results and announced different Essay Winners. The children and their father's all received plaques of commendation.



When Carey Casey (Chief Executive Officer of Fathers.com) proclaimed Mr. Shane Salter of Washington, DC as of The Year, Mr. Salter could barely hold back the tears from his son--Moye. "This is the absolute greatest honor I could have ever received by being recognized by my son as Father of the Year," said Salter. "The real work now will be living up to it. This is just an incredible honor. I would have been proud of him if he had won an essay contest writing about bubble gum. But this is just extraordinary that I am a hero in his eyes. I had no idea he entered this contest, what a surprise and that he won on top of it. It's just great being the dad of such a special kid and having the opportunity to watch him grow up alongside his brother."