



Twelve of the 38 riders of the 2016 Dads Honor Ride stop at Wrigley Field. (Photos: 21st Century Dads)



David Hirsch and Chicago Police Officer Perez.

.....
 were a factor this time, Hirsch says.

“We had amazing support from first responders as they opened the doors of their fire stations, police departments, and community centers to us,” he said. Riders heard stories from local police who shared how they encounter and see the breakdown of the family due to fatherlessness.

The ride wound through large cities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. But it was equally important to stop in the small towns and raise awareness, Hirsch noted. “We had three to four times the number of riders this year, and this allowed us to raise more awareness in more densely populated areas, compared to the route of last year’s ride. We were able to engage people, raise funds, and have more time to share our message.” U

.....
 To learn more about the 21st Century Dads and its Dads Honor Ride, visit www.21stcenturydads.org. Read about the 2015 Dads Honor Ride in “21st Century Dads: A Father’s Journey to Break the Cycle of Father Absense” by David Hirsch, available at the above website, or at www.amazon.com.

21st Century Dads Rides Again

IN 2015, DAVID HIRSCH rode his bike from Santa Monica to Chicago covering 2,300 miles over 21 days to call attention to the crisis of father absence in the home. Today, between 24 and 25 million children are living without a father, or father figure—a crisis that the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative and 21st Century Dads founder Hirsch says causes a ripple effect with evidence showing a higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse, incarceration, crime, depression, and suicide in children and families.

Hirsch and a team of riders returned from their

second 21st Century Dads Honor Ride that started on May 30, 2016, in Boston and ended in Chicago on June 19, Father’s Day. The ride is not a race, but a chance to raise awareness from city to city, and state to state, and to help raise funds for fatherhood organizations that combat fatherlessness. In 2015, the team had 11 riders; this time, there were 38 on the team.

“This year, we shortened the ride from 2,300 miles to 1,400, and this gave our riders more time to interact with communities and the media,” Hirsch said. The team rode about 75 miles a day and did not encounter as much elevation, though headwinds



In Baltimore, Maryland the 21st Century Dads riders visit the Center for Urban Families.



Dads Honor Ride team members make a stop to meet police officers in Providence, Rhode Island, during the ride’s first week.