



# Community Benefit Report 2008-2009

## The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy



Jamie L. Keith,  
Executive Director

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (ACPTP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing statewide leadership on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention through collaboration, education, training and advocacy; thereby reducing teen pregnancy and improving the well-being of Alabama's children, families and communities. Founded in 1999, the motivation for establishing an organization in Alabama with a mission and focus on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention stemmed from the fact that the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world.

Alabama contributes to this statistic by ranking among the states with the highest rates of teen births. In 2006 (*most recent national comparison data*) the teen birth rate in Alabama among girls aged 15-19 was 53.5; a rate that placed Alabama 39th in the nation.

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is founded on the belief that reducing the rate of teen pregnancy is one of the most direct means available to improve overall child well-being, ensure a healthy adolescence and adulthood, and to reduce persistent poverty. During the past year ACPTP has worked throughout Alabama to raise

awareness about the complexities of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing and has promoted the review and implementation of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

This Community Benefit Report highlights some of our activities during this year. We will continue to work in the coming months and years to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy in Alabama by creating a climate that ensures young people in Alabama receive the knowledge and skills they need to enter adulthood free from unintended pregnancy.

## Vision, Mission, and Value Statements

### Vision Statement:

ACPTP envisions healthy youth with the skills as adults to build strong families and communities.

### Mission Statement:

Provide statewide leadership on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention through collaboration, education, training and advocacy; thereby reducing teen pregnancy and improving the well-being of Alabama's children, families and communities.

### Value Statements:

The Board of Directors and staff adhere to the following:

- ACPTP values the investment in teen pregnancy prevention and services for pregnant and parenting youth for the development of healthy families and strong communities.
- ACPTP values access to medically-accurate and complete reproductive health information and care and the implementation of teen pregnancy prevention programs that are evidence-based and proven effective in changing risk-taking behavior.
- ACPTP values the diversity of opinion and the power of working in partnership to affect positive change and the role of advocacy to raise awareness and open dialogue about public policies affecting youth health issues.
- ACPTP values youth as assets in our communities and believes in their capacity to make positive choices when they are informed, educated and empowered by supportive communities.
- ACPTP values the participation of parents, caregivers, community based organizations, schools, faith communities and policy makers in addressing teen pregnancy and responsible parenting.

## Education & Training: Outreach to Communities

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has a strong commitment to providing education and training opportunities to individuals and communities throughout Alabama. The Campaign actively seeks opportunities to deliver workshop modules as a means of raising awareness about the complexities of teen pregnancy and childbearing while at the same time providing knowledge and skills for service providers to use in evaluating and implementing effective teen pregnancy prevention programs. Highlights from this year's education and training activities include:

### Teen Pregnancy Prevention Annual Conference

Each spring the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy hosts a teen pregnancy prevention conference focusing on variety of topics relating to teen pregnancy. During the 2009 conference workshops and activities focused on reframing the issue of pregnant and parenting teens in a way that generates public interest and support.



*ACPTP display board and materials at the annual conference.*

Participants heard from different speakers - each with a unique perspective on reframing the issues of teen pregnancy and parenting. Following the conference two additional training opportunities were offered in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs. Participants in both the conference and additional trainings represented a wide variety of youth-serving organizations. Information about the conference may be found at <http://www.acptp.org/uploadedFiles/2009%20Program.pdf>.

### Distance Learning Training Opportunity

This year the Campaign partnered with ADPH to host a distance-learning training event, *Introduction to Evidence-Based Approaches and Programs to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*. The training was presented by Healthy Teen Network and included a "live" training session during the taping of three sessions. The distance-learning training opportunity has reached participants from a variety of professions - health, social services, education, community organization leaders, etc and has been made available to participants throughout the United States - similar distance-learning opportunities have reached over 3,500 participants.

### Mobile Collaborative

There is a strong commitment from many Mobile community-based youth-serving organizations to select and implement evidence-based, proven effective prevention programs in their organizations. Through a training coordinated by ACPTP and led by Healthy Teen Network 29 individuals spent two days in September, 2009, focusing on *Selecting and Implementing Science*



*Mobile community leaders reviewing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.*

*-Based Programs: The Integration of HIV & Teen Pregnancy Prevention.* A training of educators will be offered in March 2010 on the selected curriculum and program implementation is anticipated to occur in late spring/early summer 2010.

### Healthy Marriage Conference

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy offered a workshop during the 2009 Regional Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families and Responsible Fatherhood Conference on Best Practices, offered by Auburn University. This was the second year the Campaign was invited to present a workshop on the complex issues surrounding teenage motherhood, relationships and marriage. The conference was open both to professionals and citizens interested in learning about ways to build and sustain healthy relationships and stable marriages.

### Dropout Prevention Summit

Recognizing the direct link between teen pregnancy, early childbearing and dropping out of high school - the Campaign was invited to participate as a presenting organization during the Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit held in early 2009. The workshop focused on providing participants with information about ways school systems could implement evidence-based, proven effective teen pregnancy prevention programs. Workshop participants also learned about different avenues they could explore that would provide school systems opportunities to support pregnant and parenting teens in their schools.

## Advocacy: Empowering Youth & Parents

Advocacy can be seen as a deliberate process of speaking out on issues of concern. On the issue of teen pregnancy prevention - the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is vocal about the importance of providing young people with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure a healthy adolescence. Empowering youth and parents to talk openly and honestly about the important issues of personal relationships and sexual health is a priority of the Campaign. Through parent forums and youth events we are addressing this priority.

On October 16, 2008, the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy co-sponsored the **Alabama Youth Council** in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Auburn Montgomery and the



*Dr. Sroka with students and a teacher at the Alabama Youth Council.*

FOCUS Program. The event, a project of the Alabama Department of Education, was a training event for youth that provided tools useful in educating their peers on the importance of reducing risky behavior such as teen pregnancy; sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV; and the emotional consequences of risk-taking behavior. Approximately 375 students from Alabama schools (grades 10-12) attended the event. They were accompanied by 57 chaperones.



*Students attending SADD 2009.*

During February 2009 the Campaign participated in the planning and delivery of the annual conference of **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)**. During the conference the Campaign distributed material about teen pregnancy prevention to approximately 600 students and their chaperones. The students attending the conference represented high schools from throughout Alabama.

In early spring 2009 the Campaign provided support for the annual **Survive and Thrive** event of the Montgomery Area Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The event



*Students attending Survive & Thrive 2009.*

served approximately 2,500 eighth graders from Montgomery Public Schools. During the health fair the Campaign distributed wristbands and information cards that encouraged youth to visit the teen pages of both the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

The Campaign participated as a partner in The FOCUS Program's **Rally for Awareness** - an annual youth

event held at Shocco Springs, AL serving approximately 300 youth. The Campaign distributed material to youth participants and answered questions about relationships and



*Students viewing the exhibits at the 2009 Rally for Awareness.*

prevention. A very popular "rubber band bracelet" was provided by the Alabama Campaign to all participants - included in the bracelet packet was information directing youth to the teen page of the Campaign's web site. Also included was a link to the "relationships reality quiz" on the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's web site. The Alabama Campaign highlighted the quiz as part of our commitment to Teen Pregnancy Prevention month in May. Other activities in Alabama related to Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month were highlighted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The Alabama Campaign provided details about National Day events in Alabama - a link to the National Campaign's recognition of Alabama activities is located at <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national/plans2009.aspx>.

## Collaboration: National, State & Local Partnerships

The issues of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing are complex and very much related to other adolescent issues. Recognizing the value of diversity of opinion and the power of working in partnership to address these issues, the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy actively seeks to include in its plans and programs the expertise and commitment of other organizations. The Campaign's collaborative nature provides opportunities to create a broad network of agencies and organizations addressing the important issues of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing.

This year the Campaign has continued to develop new, and strengthen existing, collaborative private/public relationships with a number of national organizations, state agencies and community groups. These partnerships provide a network of organizations and individuals with a direct interest in addressing the issues of teen pregnancy and childbearing. Through this network the Campaign serves as a conduit of information from the national level to state and local agencies and provides technical assistance to communities on issues relating to teen pregnancy and effective prevention strategies. These partnerships also provide

opportunities for ACPTP to integrate the message of teen pregnancy prevention in programs and publications created and distributed by the Campaign's partners.

Some of our collaborative work this year has included projects with the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs, Alabama Department of Education, Alabama Department of Human Resources, Alabama Department of Public Health, the FOCUS Program, Mobile United, Lee County Youth Development Center, Montgomery Area Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Reproductive Health Coalition for Greater Birmingham Youth, Tarrant

City Schools, Shelby County Children's Policy Council, Baldwin County Public Schools, Students Against Destructive Decisions, United Methodist Church Rural Ministers Initiative, and other state and local organizations. Additionally, the Campaign participated as member of the Healthy Teen Network annual conference planning committee, provided review of materials for both the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and Advocates for Youth, and attended national meetings on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention.

## Looking Forward

In the coming months we anticipate receiving information about the availability of federal funds for the purpose of implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs at the local level. If you, or your organization, are interested in learning more about these funds, please contact the Campaign. We have developed trainings and workshops defining evidence-based prevention programs and the process of selecting and implementing evidence-based prevention programs in communities. This information may be useful to organizations interested in pursuing funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs.

### ACPTP Program Participant Comments

- *ACPTP is a great organization doing some great things for Alabama.*
- *They (ACPTP) are very valuable in our community.*
- *The program was very educational and informative - I was exposed to some information that will be beneficial to my work*
- *Keep up the good work! This is the most effective conference I have had the opportunity to attend. Thanks!*
- *ACPTP is meeting my educational needs by providing unique ideas on how to approach teens about pregnancy prevention.*
- *ACPTP always has good meetings. I always come away with something I can use.*

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**The Alabama Campaign to  
Prevent Teen Pregnancy is on Facebook!**

In order to connect with viewers the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has joined Facebook! You can view the Campaign's Facebook Page by going to the teen section on the Campaign's website or by using the search engine on Facebook.

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