



# Community Benefit Report 2009-2010

## 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 2008 (*most recent national comparison data*) the teen birth rate in Alabama among girls aged 15-19 was 52.9; a rate that placed Alabama 40th 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

ACPTP hosted the Seventh Annual Conference to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on April 26 & 27, 2010, at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham, AL. This year's conference was the first time the event spanned two days. Fifty-two participants registered for the pre-conference session on Apr 26; 118 individuals participated in the full day conference on Apr 27. During



ACPTP annual conference participants.

the pre-conference session Dr. Tina Simpson presented a workshop on *The Determinants and Impact of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Teen Pregnancies*. This session was followed by a workshop presented by Dr. Susan Davies on *Reducing Adolescent Sexual Risk Behavior: Focus on Asset Building*. The full conference included presentations on a number of subjects including: *Healthy Adolescent Development: The Teen Years Explained; Positive Youth Development & Teen Pregnancy Prevention; Beyond Tokenism and Good Intentions: Building Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships; Adolescent Risk Behaviors*; and a final motivational session - *7 Keys for Maintaining Personal Enthusiasm*. Conference presenters include Tina Simpson, MD,

MPH; Susan Davies, PhD; Duane L. House, PhD; Janet L. Max, MPH; Sarah Axelson, MSW; and motivational speaker William O'Neal. Conference participants received several resources; including a newly released book: *The Teen Years Explained: A Guide to Healthy Adolescent Development*. Conference evaluations were positive and indicated that ACPTP continues to meet the educational and training needs of conference participants.

### Evidence-Based Programs 101

On March 3, 2010, the Campaign hosted a training on *Evidence-Based Programs 101* in Clanton, Alabama. The training was very successful and was attended by 42 individuals from throughout Alabama. ACPTP developed the content and training materials to ensure participants were equipped with the knowledge and skills to select and implement an evidence-based prevention program in their communities. Pre-post tests delivered as part of the training indicated a significant increase among participants in knowledge about the components of evidence-based prevention programs, the importance of process and outcome measurements and the significance of implementing programs with fidelity.

### Curricula Training

During the week of March 8-12, 2010, ACPTP hosted a training on three separate evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs in Mobile, Alabama, for youth-serving professionals. Training material and instruction was provided by ACPTP's

partner in this project - Healthy Teen Network (HTN). HTN trainers facilitated an engaging and effective training on *Reducing the Risk, Making A Difference* and *Making Proud*



Participants reviewing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs in Mobile.

*Choices*. Support for the training was provided by Healthy Teen Network through a national grant from Johnson & Johnson. Twenty-five participants represented community based agencies, state agencies, public health educators and members of the faith community.

### Clinic Best Practices

ACPTP partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health's Family Planning Program on June 30, 2010, to deliver a satellite training on the Alabama Public Health Training Network. The training, *Adolescent Reproductive Health: Clinic Best Practices and Programs that Work*, had over 550 participants nationwide on the day of the broadcast and will be available for on-demand viewing for one year. The target audience for the training included nurses, social workers and public health educators with a goal of providing examples of best practice teen pregnancy prevention programs and to discuss ways that they can be applied in a Title X Family Planning clinic setting.

## 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.

### Students Against Destructive Decisions

ACPTP provided support to the annual conference of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), which was held in February 2010. During the conference the Campaign distributed material about teen pregnancy prevention to approximately 400 students.

### Survive & Thrive

In February 2010, ACPTP provided support to the annual health fair of the Montgomery Area Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The event, Survive and Thrive, serves all eighth-grade students in Montgomery Public Schools. ACPTP provided teen pregnancy prevention materials for distribution to youth during the event.

### Rally for Awareness

ACPTP supported The FOCUS Program's "Rally for Awareness" at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center on April 29, 2010. Approximately 340 students from



*Students attending the 2010 Rally for Awareness.*

fourteen counties attended the event. The Rally focused on the prevention of adolescent risk

behaviors identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The Rally was featured on Birmingham's WBRC FOX 6 Health Segments and included a keynote address by Jeh Jeh Pruitt, motivational speaker and WBRC Fox 6 News Anchor.

### Ms. Foundation

ACPTP received a grant from the Ms. Foundation for Women for general operating support. The grant provides an opportunity for ACPTP to collaborate with other groups in Alabama working toward the implementation of medically-accurate and age-appropriate teen pregnancy prevention programs in school and community settings. This funding will provide resources for ACPTP to strengthen the work associated with identified Campaign priorities:

- Empower parents and teens to talk about teen pregnancy.
- Promote positive youth development as a prevention model.
- Engage policy makers who are informed, supportive and active in teen pregnancy prevention issues.
- Create high public awareness about youth related issues and use premier website and other social media as primary means of communication.
- Support evidence-based approaches (also referred to as science-based approaches) to teen pregnancy prevention in

Alabama communities (including schools, community-based organizations, clinics, etc).

### Alabama Youth Council

In partnership with The FOCUS Program, ACPTP supported the 7th Annual Alabama Youth Council (AYC) at Hewitt-Trussville High School on September 14, 2010. Students from eighteen counties and over forty Alabama high schools were among the 530 students who attended the event. The goal of the AYC was to



*Keynote speaker Ben Glenn at the 2010 Alabama Youth Council.*

increase awareness, support, and student-led prevention of adolescent risk behaviors. This event provided participants with the opportunity to hear from Ben Glenn, "The Chalk Guy." Ben's adventure filled message of inspiration and hope was both entertaining and educational.

The AYC was sponsored by the Alabama Department of Education, in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Hewitt-Trussville High School and the FOCUS Program.

## 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.

In anticipation of significant teen pregnancy prevention funds outlined in the President's 2010 federal budget, the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy hosted a state-wide training for participants on the subject of implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs with fidelity. The training was attended by 42 participants from 16 Alabama communities. Training participants received knowledge and skills that met the following objectives:

1. Explain the definition of evidence-based programs
2. Identify sexual risk-taking behaviors.

3. Explain health education/behavior theories used in the design of selected evidence-based programs.

4. Describe the concept of program fidelity and adaptation.

In the months following the training ACPTP provided links to funding announcements and encouraged youth-serving groups to submit proposals that would lead to the implementation of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

ACPTP submitted a competitive application for the replication of

evidence-based programs in nine Alabama counties. Working in partnership with six youth-serving agencies. ACPTP also partnered with a national organization on the development of a project that would work with an additional 16 youth-serving community-based groups. Finally, through a funding opportunity announcement ACPTP helped define a community-wide teen pregnancy prevention initiative in Mobile County. The project received CDC funding and through the course of the five-year project youth will gain knowledge, skills and access to services that will reduce the teen birth rate in Mobile County.

### Looking Forward

In the coming months ACPTP will partner with state entities to provide training and technical assistance to community-based organizations on the implementation of evidence-based teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS prevention programs. The Alabama Department of Public Health will administer the federal program—Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). PREP will provide opportunities for youth to participate in teen pregnancy prevention programs that include other elements of adult preparation skills. These skills may include relationships education, financial literacy, goal-setting and other positive youth development strategies. To receive updated information about PREP please sign up for ACPTP *eNews*.

### Comments from ACPTP Training Events. . .

- *The trainer appeared passionate and knowledgeable about the subject matter which made the material and class more appealing . . .Great job. . .Job well done. . .a natural trainer.*
- *Great session—thank you!*
- *All was very informative and enlightening. This is my first session—looking forward to the next.*
- *Keep up the good work!*
- *Outstanding conference!*
- *All topics were most beneficial.*
- *Fantastic information for our broadened youth development mission.*
- *The presenters were all so knowledgeable. . .*

## Thank You to our Supporters. . .

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#### Contracts/Grants

Alabama Dept of Human Resources  
Ms. Foundation for Women

#### Individuals

Mary L. Blankson, M.D  
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Sandra Forbus  
Barbara Grant  
Martha Jinright  
Carden Johnston

Jamie L. Keith  
Mark D. LaBranche, PhD  
Michelle Roth  
April Smith  
Garland Stansell  
Kelly Warren

#### In-Kind

Advocates for Youth  
Alabama Dept of Public Health  
Children's Health System

Healthy Teen Network  
National Campaign to Prevent  
Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

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

In order to connect with supporters 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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