



# Youth Connections

## OUR MISSION

To provide leadership, advocacy, and education related to adolescent pregnancy, parenting, and prevention.

**HISTORY:** In 1996 through the support of the Association of Funding Organizations (AFO), the Planning Council for Health and Human Services, Inc. conducted a study of Early Childbearing and Adolescent Pregnancy. As a result of the AFO's findings, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting Collaborative (APPPC) was formed. In 2003, APPPC changed its name to Youth Connections based on input from teen volunteers.

### PAST PROJECTS:

**Wingspread Fall Conference: Dr. Gabarino** focusing on "Ten Things a community can do to support youth.;" **"Rap & Poetry Contests":** Youth 19 and under were given a chance to showcase their skills in Original Poetry, Rap, Famous Poem, Original Art,

Song, Dance, or a Skit/ Video.;" **Legislative Breakfast/Forum:** A program wherein young parents, grandparents, and community staff share some of their personal stories and concerns with local government representatives on current public policy issues.;" **Hablando Claro: (Speak Plainly) Sessions** where we talked to Latino parents about how to talk to their children about sex.;" **Man Talk Sessions:** A series of discussions geared toward young men. Some topics included success, health, community and family.;" **Let's Talk Video:** Review a short video on teens and sexuality in Europe exploring the sexual health attitudes of Dutch, German, and French teens and their parents.;" **Youth Explosion 2005:** A series of workshops that brought

together youth to promote changes within themselves and their communities.

### 2006 PROJECTS:

MAN TALK: May 2006.

MOM-DAUGHTER EVENT: May 2006.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM: October, 2006:

ASK DR. HENNESSY on the web site.

DIVERSITY CIRCLES: Date to be determined for future sessions.

## Youth Connections

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**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** \*INCREASE MALE RESPONSIBILITY, \*INCREASE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT, \*INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS; AND \*INCREASE QUALITY SEXUALITY EDUCATION.



## Youth Connections Resource Center

The Resource Center for Youth Connections is located in the YWCA. Members of Youth Connections as well as anyone from the community can access a wealth of information through a variety of media including books and videos. Some of the topics available include teen pregnancy prevention, male responsibility, and promoting positive teen parenting skills. Just stop in at the front desk of the YWCA during its operating hours; ask to see

the Youth Connections Resource Center. People can view the materials right there in the room, or materials can be checked out to take along with you.

Youth Connections has set aside special funds this year to work on redecorating the Resource Center room. Although



*Owl' be seeing you!*

the room is quite large in size, members hope to create a more welcoming environment. Some ideas include additional furniture, rugs, floor lamps, etc. Stay tuned for more announcements regarding this project!

## "Ask Dr. Hennessy"

**Dr. Hennessy had a few words to say about her column on the Youth Connections website. This column is a new addition in 2006:** "I have been writing the column "Ask Dr. Hennessy" for the last few months. The purpose of the column is to answer questions that teens may have; especially questions that they are afraid to ask for them-

selves. I hope to dispel myths with the column because teens have a lot of misinformation, especially when it comes to sexual health. I am happy to take suggestions for future topics. I also pick my topics from what I hear from my teenage patients." *Dr. Hennessy*

Topics so far: Is oral sex the same as "safe sex?"; "What does the Depo shot do to your bones?" and Does the birth control patch (Ortho Evra) kill you? Email Dr. Hennessy at [Margaret.Hennessy@whfc.org](mailto:Margaret.Hennessy@whfc.org)



## "National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day"

On May 3, 2006, as part of National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, teens and adults are asked to go online and take a fun, engaging "quiz" that presents them with several real life scenarios involving sex and asks them to take a course of action. The first annual

National Day in 2002 had 75,000 Quiz Takers. In the following years the numbers rose as follows: 2003: 300,000; 2004: 560,000, and in 2005: 630,000. Wouldn't it be cool if the number rose to 1,000,000 this year. Come on be one in a million! WHY: Because despite recent declines, about 34 percent of girls in the US get pregnant at least once by age 20. Too many teens and parents

alike think "it can't happen to me (my child)!" The National Day quiz provides a concrete activity to help break through that wall of denial and help teens and adults realize it can happen to them. Teens and adults need to think about what to do in similar situations, and, best of all, make a plan for avoiding teen pregnancy.

## Educational Meetings 2006

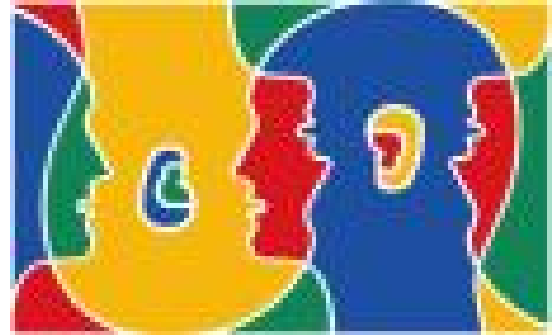
In order to continue our goal of educating Youth Connections Members and the community at large, we decided to have quarterly Educational Meetings. The first Educational Meeting was March 21, 2006 at the YWCA. The topic was Mandatory Reporting. Please see our July newsletter for an outline of this meeting. Our next Educational Meeting will be on June 20, 2006 at the YWCA of Racine wherein we will have a teen

forum discussing matters of interest of teens. For further information on these meetings, please contact us.

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## WHAT'S NEW!

**Resource Center New Editions: Development of the Brain: Zero to Three Years (Family & Consumer Science Curriculum)** (Available at YWCA of Racine/ Youth Connections)

Eight Part Lesson Plan which describes the basic structures of the brain, explains the function of these structures, describes the development of the brain during early childhood, describes positive and negative influences

on the developing brain.

**Sex Ed 101 - A Collection of Sex Education Lessons** (Available at YWCA of Racine/ Youth Connections)

A guidebook of sex education lessons including: making sense

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER DAY!

The YWCA and Youth Connections is involved in planning a day for Moms and Daughters to be together and have fun learning! The event is planned for **Saturday, May 20, 2006** at Noon. Please

contact Cassandra Lanier at (262) 633-3503 at the YWCA for more information!



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