



February 19, 2008

Dear Parents,

Did you know that Alexandria has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Virginia? In 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia had a teen pregnancy rate of 27.3 per 1000 females ages 10-19 years. The City of Alexandria had a rate of 48.1 pregnancies per 1000 females ages 10-19 years, close to double the state's rate. While our rates continue to decline, there is a lot more work to be done.

To help address the issue of teen pregnancy, the City of Alexandria created the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), a group of concerned citizens, agencies, and community based organizations dedicated to reducing the rate of teen pregnancy in Alexandria. ACAP believes that the community, parents/families, and teens play a critical role in solving this problem.

One of ACAP's goals is to engage youth in discussions around the issue of teen pregnancy; to increase youth's awareness and knowledge of teen pregnancy; and to involve youth in finding the solutions to the problem. Research shows that to be effective in reducing the teen pregnancy rate, it is vital to involve youth.

In order to get more youth involvement, ACAP is forming a Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board will be involved in projects such as:

- Producing Get Real magazine - a magazine created by and for teens to talk about issues they may be facing.
- Developing and implementing at least one activity during May's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.
- Serving as advisors to ACAP and help in promoting ACAP events and services.

The Youth Advisory Board will meet on a monthly basis in a central location. A time and date will be decided after receiving applications. By participating, your son/daughter will learn valuable leadership skills, earn volunteer/community service hours, build their resume or portfolio, and act as community leaders. We hope that you will encourage your son or daughter to be involved in this very important issue and to take a role in helping to achieve the City's goal of reducing teen pregnancy. Attached is an application for your son or daughter to fill out and return.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Becky Griesse, ACAP Coordinator, at 703.838.5030 or by email: rebecca.griesse@alexandriava.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Becky Griesse".

Becky Griesse
ACAP Coordinator

