Healthy Teen Network
2006 Annual Report
Our Mission
To provide leadership, education, training, information, advocacy, resources and support to professional individuals and organizations in the field of adolescent health, with an emphasis on teen pregnancy, pregnancy prevention and teen parenting.

Our Vision
We believe youth can make responsible decisions regarding their sexual, reproductive and parenting behaviors, as well as be effective parents, when they have complete, accurate and culturally relevant age, gender and developmentally appropriate information, skills, resources and support.

Our Members
Healthy Teen Network serves a constituent base of over 24,000 youth-serving professional organizations and individuals, including researchers, advocates, program managers, administrators, case managers, social workers, clinicians, educators, teachers, and clergy.

Together we impact over half a million teens per year.
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“Healthy Teen Network has been a widely popular resource for our staff...through weekly email newsletters, national conferences, The Prevention Researcher publication, and most importantly to guide our involvement on a statewide level in promoting and implementing science-based practices in all adolescent pregnancy prevention and teen parent support programs.

Healthy Teen Network provides a strong national umbrella for our community to provide the most comprehensive services to youth.”

-Healthy Teen Network Member
Dear Friends,

We’re never too old to celebrate “firsts”. After 27 years of constant service to our members, Healthy Teen Network is proud to publish our first Annual Report.

Since 1979, when the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting was started by professionals working with pregnant and parenting teens, Healthy Teen Network has provided resources, supports and networking opportunities to those concerned about adolescents.

Healthy Teen Network has grown tremendously and is now a recognized national leader in all three areas of teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy and teen parenting. Indeed, Healthy Teen Network remains the only national organization focused on all three areas.

Healthy Teen Network has never been stronger with solid support from several foundations, individuals, and long term support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of Health Resources Services and Administration. Our annual conference continues to provide networking opportunities and resources for hundreds and our diverse and cutting-edge print and electronic products are used by thousands.

New partnerships in 2006 exemplify Healthy Teen Network’s reach and depth in addressing the relevant issues facing today’s youth. Our staff worked with the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting to provide critical training to the prevention and care grantees on sustaining success. We also entered into a Memo of Understanding with the National Network for Youth to address issues affecting homeless and at risk youth. Healthy Teen Network is incredibly fortunate to be one of eight national membership organizations collaborating to promote positive practices in adolescent health through the Partners in Program Planning for Adolescent Health project funded by MCHB.

With a new board-approved three year strategic plan in place, Healthy Teen Network is poised to continue to address issues of prevention under the rubric of access, and has launched a very exciting Young Families Initiative. Over the next three years, Healthy Teen Network will develop more resources, identify research gaps and work with several state partners and the FrameWorks Institute to re-frame language and attitudes about pregnant and parenting teens. Our overall goal is to promote success among this fragile group by sustaining education and life goals.

Everything we do is aimed at achieving our vision that all youth are supported to make responsible and well informed decisions regarding their sexual, reproductive and parenting behaviors. None of our work, however, would be possible without you—our members and supporters—who recognize that youth are our greatest resource and work toward developing them as tomorrow’s leaders.

We hope you’ll take some time to see what we’ve been doing. We would love to hear from you about how we can do more. As always, we look forward to our continued work together as we strive to support all youth in being the best they can be.

Michele Ozumba
Board Chair

Pat Paluzzi
President and CEO
Reliable member support and consistent organizational growth remained hallmarks of Healthy Teen Network’s performance in 2006. Under current leadership, together with committed board members and staff, Healthy Teen Network has achieved substantial growth, stability and prosperity.

### New Releases in 2006

- **Boys Will Be Boys: Interpersonal Violence & Adolescent Pregnancy & Widening Our Lens**
  Reports addressing the impact of child maltreatment, interpersonal, and family violence on youth.
- **Helping Teens Stay Healthy and Safe: Health Care, Birth Control and Confidential Services**
  A series of brochures offering guidance about ways to deliver, receive, and support adolescents’ access to confidential contraceptive services.
- **Tool to Assess the Characteristics of Effective Sex and STD/HIV Education Programs (TAC)**
  Teaches practitioners how to select, adapt, improve and develop effective teen pregnancy, STD and HIV prevention programs.
- **Helping Teens Help Themselves**
  A national blueprint representing an approach to increase supportive housing options for pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care.
- **Promoting Healthy Teens**
  A brochure focused on the advantages of integrating HIV, STI and pregnancy prevention education and services.

### Strengthening Internal Assets

In 2006, increased funding streams and a revamped organizational structure allowed Healthy Teen Network to hire five employees, create operational departments, institute an internship program and initiate a sophisticated system for tracking exposure, technical assistance, membership and Web/Egram traffic.

### Partnering for Success

Collaboration remains a core value at Healthy Teen Network. We are one of three national partners on a CDC-funded initiative and are one of eight national organizations chosen to join the five-year Partnership in Program Planning for Adolescent Health sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

In the past year we have engaged in projects with the Center for Adolescent Health and the Law, ETR Associates, The Prevention Researcher, thinkMTV, National Network for Youth, Community Healthcare Network and more.

### Advancing Capacity in the Field

The training and technical assistance department at Healthy Teen Network experienced extreme growth in 2006, adding new staff, developing further partnerships and meeting training requests to build capacity in the field.

Through a CDC grant, expert trainers from Healthy Teen Network and ETR Associates provided training in 14 locations across the country. In addition, staff conducted over 20 presentations at conferences and meetings, on topics such as foster care, adolescent development and confidentiality.

In April 2006, Healthy Teen Network convened the annual State and Local Training and Advisory Group (SLCTAG) meeting. During this two day event, Healthy Teen Network, with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, facilitated the education, support and networking of 17 coalition leaders in adolescent health.

### Inspiring Change in Communities

Healthy Teen Network supported policy and advocacy efforts during this past year by restructuring existing policy statements into advocacy resource guides (ARG), developing three new ARGs and signing on to 14 letters of support for such issues as comprehensive sex ed, child care funding, and access to contraception.

In April 2006, Healthy Teen Network played a role in launching the Youth Policy Action Center - a Web site that engages people in real-time democracy - and since posted several action alerts that affected change on Capitol Hill.

### Commitment to Members

Healthy Teen Network expanded its membership benefits package, including exclusive Web access, free materials and discounts on journals and educational resources, streamlined the membership application process, and published several new reports and brochures.

At the 2006 conference, Healthy Teen Network unveiled its online resource directory - available only to members - of national and state organizations, coalitions and government agencies.

### Broadening our Reach

As a result of overhauling our products and electronic services in mid-2006, Healthy Teen Network has considerably increased brand recognition, publication and advertising sales, Web site traffic, and membership retention and renewals.

Healthy Teen Network garnered local and national media attention in such outlets as The Baltimore Sun, Youth Today, Naples News and Fort Worth Star Telegram.

“I forward [your] information to staff so they can utilize it in working with the students. I save and collect the information to support my position in writing for grants and other program materials that require statistical or support data. Thanks for all you do.”

-Healthy Teen Network Member
Cultivating Capacity: 
**Supporting Pregnant & Parenting Teens**

Healthy Teen Network champions pregnant and parenting teens at the national, state and local level. **Continuing a 27 year tradition, Healthy Teen Network provides professional training, technical assistance, and other resources to build individual and organizational capacity to support teens and young families.**

At the 2006 annual conference, *Coming of Age: Supporting Teens and Young Families in the 21st Century*, co-hosted with the California Alliance Concerned with School-Aged Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention (CACSAP), Healthy Teen Network featured advances in the fields of teen pregnancy, parenting and prevention and offered concrete strategies to serve youth today.

“Your team pulls off an excellent national conference...This conference is a crucial place for people to exchange ideas and learn new practices that will ultimately change uncountable lives for the better.”

- Healthy Teen Network Member

As a national membership organization dedicated to adolescent health issues - specifically teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy and teen parenting - Healthy Teen Network calls attention to the unique and often underserved needs of teens and young families.

Healthy Teen Network prides itself on supplying the adolescent health community with the relevant and timely resources needed to effectively reach youth and affect change. Some of the topics and populations we address include: pregnant & parenting teens; teen pregnancy and STI/HIV prevention; youth development; family involvement; science-based approaches; LGBTQ youth; foster care; healthy & unhealthy relationships; and young men.

“By highlighting these issues on a national level, we invite policymakers, researchers and health professionals to join us in making a difference,” says Pat Paluzzi.

In addition to countless workshops, Pre-Conference Institutes, keynotes and exhibits detailing best practices and fostering skills-building, Healthy Teen Network hosted a highly touted Saturday plenary session on the effective strategies for supporting pregnant and parenting teens. Led by a panel of providers and teen parents, this session offered successful techniques conference attendees could bring to their own communities.

During the past year, Healthy Teen Network provided training and technical assistance to members as well as non-members across the country. Invited by the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP), Healthy Teen Network staff trained OAPP care and prevention grantees on the essentials of financial sustainability and building strong organizations.

In December 2006, Healthy Teen Network launched a three-year plan to promote the educational, financial, and professional success of young families and their children by targeting improvements in policy, research and effective programming. “The cycle of poverty that accompanies many teen parents and their children impacts the entire community,” says Paluzzi. “We need to look deeper at ways to support teen parents so they can support themselves — help them stay in school, obtain employment, and provide for their child(ren).”

Healthy Teen Network looks forward to advancing these efforts to help make a difference in the lives of teens and young families.

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**The Issues**

**FEWER THAN ONE-THIRD OF TEEN MOTHERS EVER FINISH HIGH SCHOOL.**

**WITH PROPER INTERVENTIONS, MANY OF THE NEGATIVE OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH TEEN PREGNANCY CAN BE PREVENTED.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

THIRTY-ONE PERCENT OF YOUNG WOMEN BECOME PREGNANT AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE THEY REACH THE AGE OF 20 – ABOUT 750,000 A YEAR.
DID YOU KNOW?

EVERY YEAR 20,000 FOSTER YOUTH AGES 16 AND OLDER EXIT THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES ON THEIR OWN.

YOUNG WOMEN IN FOSTER CARE ARE 2.5 TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN THOSE NOT IN FOSTER CARE TO HAVE BEEN PREGNANT BY AGE 19.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING TEENS PROMOTES THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-SUSTAINING ADULTS.

Helping Teens Help Themselves: Pregnant & Parenting Teens Exiting Foster Care

Despite laudable progress in reducing pregnancy rates and births to teens, the United States still has the highest teen birth rate among Western industrialized countries. The rates of teen pregnancy within the child welfare system are of particular concern. Youth living in foster care are prone to high rates of risky sexual behaviors, including early age of first intercourse and first pregnancy and large numbers of sexual partners. Through the generous support of the Freddie Mac Foundation, Healthy Teen Network strives to heighten awareness, build partnerships and advocate for greater support to help young families thrive.

An early and ongoing success of this campaign continues to be Healthy Teen Network’s national blueprint for expanding supportive housing.* Supportive housing for pregnant and parenting teens can play a crucial role in building self-reliance and successful transition to independent living, according to findings from key informant interviews and an expert roundtable.

Since its release in the fall of 2006, over 7,000 copies of the blueprint have been disseminated at conferences and meetings across the country and nearly 1,000 have been downloaded from Healthy Teen Network’s Web site.

“"This blueprint is an excellent tool to identify action steps that promote and help implement supportive housing options."

- Pat Paluzzi

Healthy Teen Network has been proactive in developing partnerships and offering training and technical assistance to advance knowledge in the field. At the 2006 annual conference in Anaheim, CA, members were exposed to the issue through a workshop by partners at the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

In addition, Healthy Teen Network presented on the topic at several meetings and conferences nationally in 2006, including the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices meeting and the Youth in Foster Care Project meeting.

Healthy Teen Network plans to continue disseminating the blueprint, offering trainings and technical assistance, and building partnerships in an overall effort to help teens help themselves.

*Supportive housing is a highly integrated system of living arrangements and professional case-management services that provides pregnant and parenting teens with a safe place to live and the life skills needed to maintain housing throughout adulthood.
Promoting Science-Based Approaches: *Weaving Science & Practice*

Healthy Teen Network co-leads a national effort to promote the use of science-based approaches in teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV prevention. As a partner of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded initiative with Advocates for Youth and National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Healthy Teen Network builds capacity of state and local coalitions to promote science-based prevention practices in their own communities.

This widely successful *Weaving Science and Practice Project* allows Healthy Teen Network and subcontractor ETR Associates to collaborate with national, state and regional project grantees and bring the most appropriate and needed trainings in program research, design, implementation and evaluation to communities nationwide.

In the fall of 2006, Healthy Teen Network pilot-tested the highly anticipated *Tool to Assess the Characteristics of Effective Sex and STI/HIV Education Programs (TAC)*. The TAC gives practitioners the tools they need to select, adapt, develop and implement more effective pregnancy, STI and HIV prevention programs. From the first month of release to several months thereafter, Web site downloads of the TAC increased by over 100 percent each month, accompanied by a large and steady list of publication orders from members and affiliates.

At the 2006 conference, Healthy Teen Network and ETR Associates conducted a Pre-Conference Institute on the new and revised characteristics of effective prevention programs. This institute focused on the most recent research surrounding effective characteristics of teen pregnancy, STI and HIV prevention programs and how to use them to develop or adapt programs. On post-tests, 70 percent of participants reported an increase in knowledge of science-based approaches.

Healthy Teen Network plans to continue promoting science-based approaches. Preparation for the new training *Getting to Outcomes (GTO)* began in 2006 and will be implemented in 2007. GTO is a program planning, implementation, and evaluation framework that encompasses a ten-step organizational process and integrates assessment, program research, best practice, process and outcome evaluation measures, continuous improvement, and sustainability.

**Feedback From Training Participants**

“What we learned from the workshop has already guided our work—and it’s only been three days!”

“I was lucky enough to attend your conference. We’ve already used a few of the activities from one of the sessions, and...incorporated all 17 of the elements of effective interventions (thanks again, Doug Kirby) into our programs.”

“I understand now how to better use the tool for designing effective programs.”

“After I left the training, I started having this flow of very productive ideas for my department...the training reinvigorated me.”

**Glossary of Terms**

**Science-Based Approach:** Using science-based principles in program design such as a logic model, evaluation or theoretical framework.

**Science-Based Program** (also called evidence-based, research-proven and best practice programs): A program that has been rigorously evaluated and has shown to be effective in changing behaviors.

**Promising Program:** A program that has not been formally evaluated but has most of the characteristics of programs shown to be effective. Dr. Douglas Kirby and colleagues have developed a list of 17 characteristics of effective curriculum-based programs.
Addressing HIV/AIDS Among Youth

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to play a significant role in the lives of adolescents and young adults today. In 2000, youth ages 15-24 represented only 25 percent of the sexually experienced population in the United States, but had 48 percent of all new STIs that year. To address this growing trend, Healthy Teen Network, with support from Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, produced resources, provided trainings and developed advocacy tools to help our members address HIV/AIDS among youth.

“While the teen pregnancy rates have declined over the past decade, the same is not true for rates of HIV among our youth. They remain one of our most vulnerable populations to this grave condition,” says Pat Paluzzi.

In the fall of 2006, Healthy Teen Network released Promoting Healthy Teens: Integrating HIV, STI and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education and Services. With helpful “how-to” tips, HIV/STI and pregnancy prevention resources, examples of proven effective programs and a training opportunity, this brochure is a complete tool for professionals interested in making that next step towards an integrated approach* to prevention education and services.

During the first month of release, the Promoting Healthy Teens brochure was downloaded over 200 times on the Healthy Teen Network Web site. Since then, there has been an appreciable increase in demand for hard copies of the brochure - the complete stock has been disseminated and more copies have been ordered.

“Integrating HIV education into our teen pregnancy prevention message makes good sense and is good public health practice.”

-Pat Paluzzi

At our 2006 annual conference, Healthy Teen Network and the California Family Health Council co-presented on how to integrate HIV, STI and pregnancy prevention programs. Designed for family planning clinicians and practitioners, the workshop tackled concerns with combining prevention messages, the current debate on “universal” HIV testing, and introduced strategies for addressing sexual risk-taking behavior of young people in local communities.

Lastly, Healthy Teen Network developed an advocacy resource guide on addressing HIV/AIDS among youth. With this resource guide, Healthy Teen Network sheds light on the grave issue of HIV/AIDS among youth, stresses the need for age-appropriate, medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education and youth friendly services, and affirms that prevention is strengthened by knowledge, access and preparedness.

In the coming year, Healthy Teen Network will continue to underscore the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS among youth through training and technical assistance, timely resources and policy alerts.

*DID YOU KNOW?
IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN HALF OF ALL HIV POSITIVE ADOLESCENTS HAVE NOT BEEN TESTED AND ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR INFECTION.


COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION IS EFFECTIVE AT HELPING YOUTH MAKE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS ABOUT SEX AND ADOPT HEALTHY SEXUAL BEHAVIORS.

“I have attended two of your annual conferences. I find the topics timely and speakers superb. Half of my time [at work] is spent on facilitating HIV prevention trainings and the other half spent on Title X issues. Information from Healthy Teen Network is helpful to me in both of those roles. Thanks for your hard work and valuable resources.”

- Healthy Teen Network Member

*Integrated approach means youth receive information on a full range of sexual health issues and protective behaviors, including abstinence and the use of contraception and condoms.
Looking to the Future

At the close of 2006, Healthy Teen Network’s Board of Directors approved a comprehensive three-year strategic plan for the organization.

The two major goals of our 2007-2009 strategic plan are to sharpen Healthy Teen Network’s focus on supporting young families and specifically address issues of access as a teen pregnancy and STI prevention strategy.

In all areas of program development and delivery, Healthy Teen Network will partner to build capacity among communities to meet their needs for addressing issues affecting adolescent health and well-being and promote science-based approaches, promising practices and youth development as effective approaches to supporting teens.

Access as a Prevention Strategy

Healthy Teen Network will work specifically to ensure equal access for all youth to the information, services and supports they need to make responsible choices.

Defining access in its broadest terms, Healthy Teen Network promotes access to appropriate education and services for all youth, regardless of racial/ethnic or sexual orientation or gender identification and housing, social, economic or immigrant status. Our future conference themes, print and electronic materials, and advocacy efforts will stress the importance of fostering inclusiveness to reduce disparities in services and outcomes for young people.

Young Families Initiative

Although teenage pregnancy and birth rates are at a record low in the United States, there remain a significant number of young families whose unique needs are not being addressed. The more timely interventions, training and encouragement allotted to teen parents, the greater likelihood of a promising future for themselves and their children.

To nurture the potential of our most fragile and forgotten families, Healthy Teen Network aims to enhance current knowledge about young parents and their children and improve upon available funding and services through our Young Families Initiative.

These two goals will be reflected in all operations of the organization, including conference themes, electronic and print resources, training and technical assistance and more. Healthy Teen Network intends to design and implement products and services that will build the capacity of our members to support all youth in enjoying a healthy adolescence and successful transition to adulthood.

Organizational Operations

Organizationally, Healthy Teen Network is looking forward to a stronger fiscal base, an improved infrastructure and expanded programmatic services with articulated goals and objectives for the next three years.

Invitation to Make a Difference

It is our aim for the future of Healthy Teen Network to strengthen the educational, financial and professional success of teens and young families by targeting improvements in policy, research and effective programming.

We invite you to join our network and make a difference in the lives of teens and young families.
In 2006, Healthy Teen Network boasted significant fiscal and fundraising accomplishments, including three years of general operating support and two five year cooperative agreements, and continued our focus on corporate connections and individual giving. As a result, Healthy Teen Network increased its operating budget for 2007 by 40 percent and established a more stable reputation in the field.

**Source of Income, 2006**

- Member Dues 3%
- Earned Income 3%
- Conference 19%
- Government Grants 35%
- Grants & Contributions 40%

**Expenditures by Program Area, 2006**

- General 12%
- Policy & Advocacy 7%
- Conference 19%
- Resource Development & Dissemination 21%
- Training & Technical Assistance 39%
- Fundraising 1%

Special Thanks to our Supporters

Healthy Teen Network would like to thank the countless organizations and individuals for helping us make a difference in the lives of teens and young families.

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Arcus Foundation
The California Wellness Foundation
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DHHS, Office of Adolescent Health

Freddie Mac Foundation
John Merck Fund
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Ortho Women’s Health & Urology
Rhode Island Foundation
Private Donations
Healthy Teen Network serves as the leading national membership organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of teens and young families.

Since 1979, through a national network of youth-serving professionals, Healthy Teen Network has developed and disseminated resources and supports to address a broad array of adolescent reproductive and parenting issues, with an emphasis on teen pregnancy, teen parenting and teen pregnancy prevention.

Healthy Teen Network works in collaboration with a multitude of constituents and utilizes a five-pronged approach to supporting the field through: research and evaluation; information dissemination; training and technical support; policy and advocacy; and organizational capacity building.

Our latest products address such varied topics as:

- science-based approaches;
- access to confidential health care services for teens;
- HIV, STI and teen pregnancy prevention, education and services;
- access to supportive housing among pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care;
- the unique needs of LGBTQ youth;
- the impact of early abuse on male sexual and reproductive health;
- HIV/AIDS among youth; and more.

Visit us online at www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org.

"THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A GREAT RESOURCE!

WE USE YOUR WEB SITE AS A RESOURCE FOR A BROAD RANGE OF INFORMATION ON TEEN PARENT ISSUES TO INFORM OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK. THE ISSUE BRIEFS, FACT SHEETS, DATA ANALYSIS AND POLICY STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL TO US AS WE FRAME OUR ISSUES AND PRIORITIES."

-Healthy Teen Network Member