

YLT Teens Must Be

- 10 - 19 years of age
- Able to speak in public
- Committed to working in their community to prevent teen pregnancy
- Able to participate in YLT meetings and events and make the required commitment of time and energy
- Interested in talking to national and local media concerning the role of teens in teen pregnancy prevention
- Interested in representing peers as members of the Youth Leadership Team
- Willing to work respectfully with others
- Willing to be an advocate for teen issues



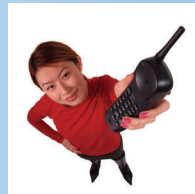
Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.

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863-297-3043

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www.healthystarthhp.org

Terri Chambers, TPPA Coordinator

If you're interested in being a part of the Youth Leadership Team, please contact the Healthy Start Coalition office at the number above for more information and an application.



Helpful Phone Numbers for Teens

AIDS Hotline Info **1**
-800-342-AIDS

Abuse Hotline **1-**
800-962-2873



Narcotics Anonymous **1**
--866-288-6262



Sexual Assault / Abuse
1-877-688-5077



Healthy Start Coalition
863-297-3043



Teen Pregnancy Prevention For Polk County



A program of the Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

YLT is an active committee of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance which is a part of the Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.

What is the Youth Leadership Team?



The Youth Leadership Team consists of youth (ages 10-19) who are interested in giving back to their community. YLT members give a voice to the unique perspective of Polk County's youth, and teen pregnancy prevention and related risky behaviors. Youth Leadership Team members come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide range of opinions on sex, relationships, dating and the reality of being a teen today.

YLT teens know their voices are critically important.



YLT teens meet others from around the County.

Is Polk County In A Crisis For Teen Pregnancy?

- ◆ Polk County has ranked among the top 15 Counties in the State for teen births for ages under 18 years old out of Florida's 67 counties.
- ◆ Every week, approximately 21 teens ages 15-19 give birth and about every 18 days one child age 10-14 gives birth .
- Every year teen births cost Polk County tax payers more than \$5.79 million dollars.
- ◆ Teen parents are 50% more likely to drop out of school.
- ◆ 25% of teen parents will have another child before adulthood.
- ◆ Teen mothers are more likely to remain a single parent.
- ◆ Teen dads earn about \$5,000 less annually.
- ◆ Sons of teen mothers are 13% more likely to end up in prison while teen daughters are 22% more likely to become teen mothers themselves.
- ◆ Babies born to teens are more likely to die within the first month and are at higher risk for disabilities and developmental delays.

Risky Behaviors That Could Lead To Teen Pregnancy

- ◆ Quick relationships
- ◆ Unprotected sex
- ◆ Being a follower, not a leader
- ◆ No goals in life
- ◆ Low self esteem
- ◆ Drugs
- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Skipping school

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- ◆ TV / Radio / Teen Talk
- ◆ Peer Support
- ◆ Teen Summits
- ◆ Community Service Hours
- ◆ Meet New Friends
- ◆ Participate in after school activities
- ◆ Teen panel discussions
- ◆ Community presentations
- ◆ Awareness activities

Comments from local YLT members.....

"I want to protect teens and get them

information they need."

"Thank you for allowing me to help the community."

"We're making a difference."