

2015 Annual Report

July 2014 - June 2015

www.togetherforyouth.net

Facebook: TogetherForYouth, Waterloo

Twitter: @TogetherForYouth



THANK YOU TO OUR TFY FUNDERS

IDHS CAPP, CVP Empowerment, Cedar Valley United Way, Waverly Shell Rock United Way, RJ McElroy Trust, Community Foundation, Guernsey Foundation, Teen Trust, Principal Financial Group Foundation, & Ronald McDonald House Charities.



A Note from Our Coordinator

Together For Youth highlights another successful year of programming in this annual report while serving Black Hawk, Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler and Tama counties providing nearly 1,500 presentations to area middle and high schools, youth serving agencies, faith communities, and various community organizations. We want our community to know that state and national teen births continue to decline, and even more notably teen births in BHC are declining at a much steeper rate. The programming we have built together as a community is working, and working well! Our youth are being equipped and empowered with the information they need to prevent or postpone pregnancy until they are ready for or plan parenthood. We are now focused on maintaining what we have established while also building new rural partnerships to reach even more youth and young families. Let's all continue to support and empower our young people with the information and resources they deserve to make informed decisions regarding their sexual health and futures.

Joni Spencer



July

TFY Coordinator, Joni Spencer has been able to serve as a Peer Coach through an EyesOpenIowa initiative. Through this work she has worked closely and guided other grantees across Iowa in forming coalitions and ways to build community engagement.

EOI Certified Sexual Health Educator Training: All four of our Community Health Educators became state certified this year. EyesOpenIowa is our state organization that oversees this certification and provides much in the way of training and support to our work. TFY remains committed to providing quality programming to our communities.

August

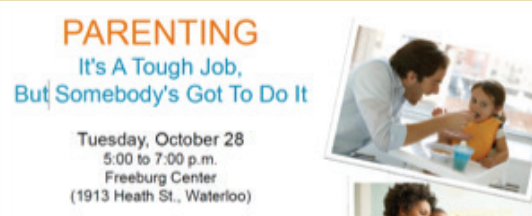
Young Parents Together (YPT) incorporated a new curriculum this year called Partners for a Healthy Baby. Allen hosted curriculum training with YPT facilitators before implementing the curriculum at YPT. Staff and participants feel very positively about this new curriculum.

UnityPoint Allen Hospital was one of the Cedar Valley Pridefest sponsors. TFY was represented with a booth and gave out materials about our services including Pridefest Buttons.



September

TFY Health Educators continue to reach out to districts in our six-county service area. In this fiscal year we began a partnership with Waverly-Shell Rock's High School. Health students there received sexual health programming for the first time. These students learned the basics back in their 8th grade science classes and now, thanks to growing partnerships, the high school students are receiving follow-up education. Great job W-SR Schools!



October

October is National Let's Talk Month This is celebrated annually by Together For Youth. Parents and Kids can talk about sensitive sexual health issues. TFY partnered with community programs to provide support and education around keeping their young people safe and supported as they journey through early childhood, puberty and young adulthood. Thanks goes out to Allen Hospital, IDPH, Nest, Operation Threshold and Tri-County Head Start for work in reaching 22 parents that evening. Each family was offered a book of their choice regarding teaching sexual health early, often, and at home.



TFY Coordinator Joni Spencer and YPT Coordinator Libby Fry presented a breakout session about Young Parents Together at the National Healthy Teen Network Conference in Austin, TX in 2014.



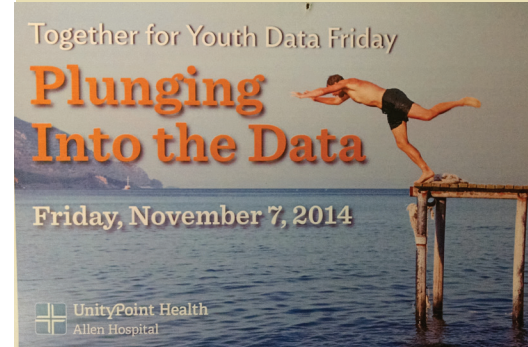
Together For Youth & Allen Women's Health staff teamed up for the Pink Ribbon Run / Walk held downtown Cedar Falls October 2014. Our team name was "Sharee's Sisters"

in honor of our coworker Sharee that fought and has won her battle with breast cancer!

November

TFY Health Educator Jean Gallmeyer and TFY Program Assistant Brooke Olson presented at the EyesOpenIowa Conference: TFY understands the importance of knowing our community. Knowing the demographics, the community indicators, the youth survey research information and how all this relates to planning and strategizing to meet the sexual health needs of our young people. We also understand the importance of sharing what we have learned along the way. TFY collects much of that important information from data sources in the county, state, nation.

TFY hosted a Data Friday event with our funders to discuss Black Hawk County's successes through the adolescent sexual health data we collect, community initiatives to address the data and our group discussed ideas on moving forward.



December

SiHLE (Sistas Informing, Healing, Living & Empowering) is a proven effective curriculum designed to empower and educate African American females between the ages of 14-18 on sexual health, gender and cultural pride. TFY has provided the SiHLE program for eight years to address the adolescent sexual health disparities among Black Hawk County's youth of color. The program was recently featured on the front page of the Sunday Des Moines Register. The following is from one of our SiHLE "Near Peers" on her experience working with the SiHLE program and SiHLE Sistas. (A Near Peer is a young woman between the ages of 18-21 who is hired to co-facilitate SiHLE with an adult facilitator.) "As I got older, I started to realize I had a passion for helping younger African American girls stay on the right path and never let society deter their dreams. I started working with SiHLE October of 2014. I have participated in over six SiHLE sessions so far and all of them have been such a learning experience for the girls and for me. I love being a role model and someone that they feel comfortable talking to and opening up to. Each girl is different and unique in their own way. They each come in with different attitudes and stories to tell."

Being a Near Peer with SiHLE program, I share a very personal relationship with each and every girl. As I continue to be a Near Peer, I hope that I can make an impact on each and every girl's life that decides to be a part of SiHLE. Knowing that I am helping these girls out is what motivates me to come back.



SiHLE Beauty Baskets are given to SiHLE participants at graduation.

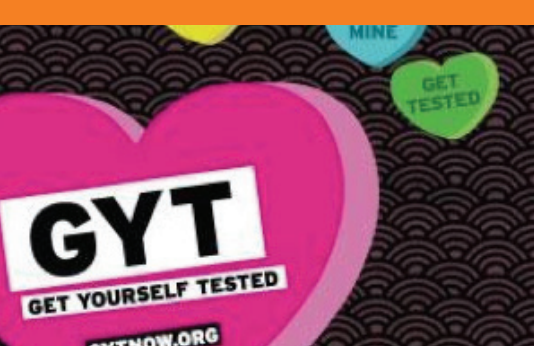


January

TFY was awarded the Teen Trust grant for YPT participant incentives. We were surprised with a visit from Teen Trust members with our award check.

TFY is celebrating one year in the social media world with our Facebook account! We also have a new account on Twitter.





February

February is recognized nationally as “Get Yourself Tested” month. Des Moines County Public Health in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Burlington Schools held a school wide testing day at their high school. TFY was also on hand that day to provide education on STDs.

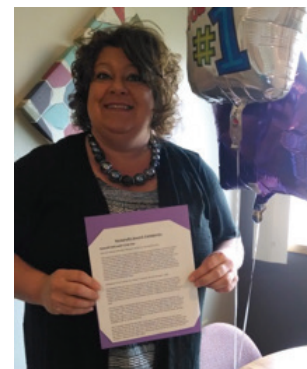


March

TFY staff joined others across the State of Iowa for Prevention Day on the Hill. Staff had the opportunity to meet with many of our local Legislators to discuss the importance of family planning and adolescent sexual health initiatives.

April

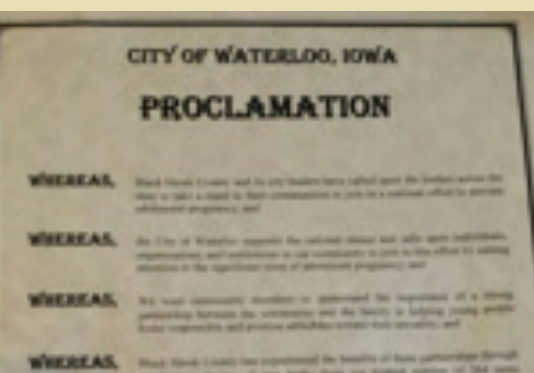
TFY Coordinator, Joni Spencer, was nominated by the TFY Coalition for the Nonprofit Professional of the Year. We thank you Joni for all of your advocacy and leadership on adolescent health.



May

For a second year in a row, TFY reached all tenth grade students in the Waterloo Community Schools with five sessions of Health Education programming. TFY also offers an introductory session for parents to meet our Health Educators and learn about the topics that will be discussed with their students.

May “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month” activities included distribution of May promotional items to local community funders, supporters and legislators, May Proclamations signed at Cedar Falls and Waterloo City Council meetings, and Facebook advertisements.



June

TFY was featured on the Allen CARES Radio Program on KBBG with host A’Lisa Walker.

YPT staff nominated one of our participants for the Rose McCay Award through Youth & Shelter Services in Ames, IA. This YPT participant was chosen as a recipient of a \$1,000 Rose McCay Scholarship! She was recognized at their luncheon in July. This award is given to young parents who have achieved a major goal and turned their lives around.

We are so proud of our YPT participant!



BLACK HAWK COUNTY Adolescent Sexual Health Report

	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19	Total BHC Cases	Teen Births 19 & Younger
2010 Chlamydia Gonorrhea	25	383	1142	170
2011 Chlamydia Gonorrhea	16	358	1163	118
2012 Chlamydia Gonorrhea	*	295	1045	108
2013 Chlamydia Gonorrhea	5	220	973	103
2014 Chlamydia Gonorrhea	*	218	1017	92

STD Program at Iowa Department of Public Health