

AMTC NEWS



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AMTC & Associates Newsletter

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Torri Childs: A Passion that Permeates Professionally and Personally

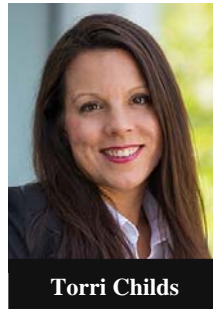
“Working with youth is my passion,” states Torri Childs. Since 2008, Torri has demonstrated this passion through her work with a community based non-profit called Mission West Virginia, in partnership with AMTC, to implement three federal grants and one state grant, totaling \$2.4 million annually. The focus areas include healthy relationship education, positive youth development and teen pregnancy prevention (TPP). This fall, Torri joined AMTC as a full-time Field Researcher.

Her extensive TPP work focuses largely on her home state, West Virginia. Statewide, numerous agencies and organizations serving the state’s children and families have benefited from her dedication, including but not limited to: public schools, group homes, the Juvenile Justice Department, Workforce Investment Boards and funders.

Torri approaches each project with a clear focus: “helping youth to build the best future possible by supporting them with positive decision-making to reach their ultimate goal.”

Yet, there needs to be a process in between setting an initial goal and the point of achieving a successful outcome. Torri does this through innovative, out of the box curricular strategies. One example is her use of work stations to teach TPP

Torri Childs feature continued on page 2 >>>



Torri Childs

Lori Roller Bridges the Best of All Worlds

International travel opens the traveler to experiences beyond one’s accustomed day-to-day existence, but even more so—travel opens worlds within one-self with new avenues for self-reflection. Lori Roller experienced this as a member of the Peace Corps in Honduras where her insights paved the path for the rest of her life’s work.

While in Honduras, Lori formed a close relationship with Sister Adela of the local Catholic Church who encouraged her to work with the church’s youth group. Lori facilitated workshops on communication skills, self-esteem and relationships. This led to topics on HIV prevention and sexuality. “The youth’s response to the sexual health workshops was amazing,” noted Lori. “I realized from this experience how important human sexuality is and how hungry teenagers are for this information.”

For over twenty years, Lori has never lost sight of how teenagers connect to topics of human sexuality. She has dedicated her life to understanding the factors that inhibit and support teens and adults in making healthy decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health (SRH). With scientific rigor, she uses that understanding to develop, train and evaluate behavior-change curricula, always with a focus on targeted outcomes such as the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies.

Lori Roller feature continued on page 2 >>>



Lori Roller at Lake Victoria, Tanzania

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concepts. At each station, participants do more than theoretical learning; rather, they actually see and touch different birth control options, all under the careful guidance of an educator at each station.

Torri's major role in her new position is to help AMTC's partners develop and implement data-driven processes to measure outcomes that can improve their programs. As a consultant, she endeavors to build collaborative relationships among all stakeholders.

For Torri, her vocation serves a higher purpose. It's based on the same values that form the foundation of her family life with her husband and three young children, all under eight-years-old. The Childs family is highly involved in church, and not surprisingly, Torri is one of the church's youth group leaders.

After years of collaborating with Torri in her role as an agency partner for Mission West Virginia, AMTC is thrilled to welcome Torri to the AMTC family. She will be vested in multiple evaluation systems and activities related to client management, and to conduct field research and fidelity monitoring for the U.S. Office of Adolescent Health, funded Mission West Virginia Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and Competitive Abstinence Education Program.

It's clear that Torri derives immense satisfaction from her work. "To see the look on their faces when they are able to make the decision for themselves to better their future, instead of someone else always telling them what to do is priceless."

Lori Rolleri feature continued from page 1

Lori is an authority on a tool that is central to her work, theory of change logic models. "Logic models are like road maps," explains Lori. "They give direction to program developers, implementers and evaluators in deciding what their programs goals are, the behaviors the program participants must engage in to reach that goal, the determinants of those behaviors, and the intervention activities that must be intentionally designed to change those determinants."

Scientific reviews and other technical writing is another component of Lori's work. It is a skill she honed in on while working with her mentor, Dr. Douglas Kirby, one of the world's foremost experts on evidence-based programs to promote SRH amongst youth. During this time, noted Lori, "I learned how to better assess the rigor of evaluation studies and how to objectively connect the theoretical, pedagogical and implementation factors that make programs work."

Lori's work spans communities in the U.S., Latin America and Africa. Last month she was in Tanzania, training on intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention. Next month she will join AMTC in New Orleans to talk about logic models and teen pregnancy prevention (TPP). In addition to IPV and SRH, her work also focuses on gender equality, parent-child connectedness and other topics.

While Lori's work in Honduras left an indelible mark on her life, her subsequent travels also benefited the lives of those who were fortunate to be a part of her programs. Lori enthusiastically joined AMTC, as of October, 2015, as TPP Evaluation Consultant.

FEATURED ASSOCIATE

Patty Peck Connects Work and Home

The word "home" often evokes feelings of warmth, happiness, family. "Work," on the other hand, might not always be thought of in such rosy terms. In fact, one might try as hard as possible to separate work and home life. Not Patricia (Patty) Peck. "I work at a place that brings positivity to myself and others, and that carries into my home life," noted Patty. "I look forward to coming to work every day. There is nothing more rewarding than loving what you do."

Patty has worked in some capacity with the AMTC team for the past seven years and joined AMTC as a full-time employee in 2015, filling the position of Administrative Coordinator. During her tenure with AMTC, her fellow team members have grown to appreciate her positive attitude and her willing-



ness to go the extra mile. These values, noted Patty, are commensurate with AMTC's culture: "I love working with such a positive, smart, creative group of people," said Patty, "all working for a common goal."

As an integral member of the team, Patty aims to assist in any way possible. She is flexible, happy to work on new projects and learn new office systems. Her diverse background spans over thirty years and includes experiences as an administrator, manager and supervisor. These experiences and her ability to adapt ensure that projects are handled confidently and competently.

At AMTC, Patty is the lead person for arranging calendar appointments for the Principal. She also helps other staff members stay on track with travel schedules. Patty coordinates internal and external meetings and special functions.

She functions as the hub of the administrative office, where she purchases and keeps inventory of supplies, works with outside vendors, designs the physical office space, is a liaison with building management/facilities, and designs and executes office systems. She also enjoys helping her colleagues with their projects, including assistance during the grant writing process.

A value central to Patty's life is that of volunteering. It informs everything she does, another example of how she fuses her professional and personal life. She has volunteered for multiple organizations in a variety of settings. This includes, but is not limited to, schools, camps, food pantries and sporting events. In fact, in 2005 Patty was awarded the Village of Shorewood Wisconsin's Volunteer of the Year.

It's not the accolades that motivate Patty, but doing what's right. She does not hesitate to help others even if it might temporarily make her circumstances a little more challenging. It's a duty she also likes to carry out with her husband and two boys. For Patty, teamwork is as much personal as it is professional.

CONGRATULATIONS!

AMTC & Associates partners with publicly funded organizations to build capacity and align their mission and vision with public policy and funding. Congratulations to our partners who recently received specific grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specified below.

Organizations and Locations they Serve	Agency that Funded Grant	Grant Title	General Overview of what Funding Supports
Fathers' Support Center St. Louis City and St. Louis Counties, Missouri	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Grant: New Pathways for Fathers and Families	New Pathways for Fathers and Families (Pathways)	Pathways fosters positive engagement between father/child, builds healthy relationships (including couple interactions and co-parenting), strengthens marriages, promotes employment opportunities, economic mobility, and social/emotional stability.
Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Services Milwaukee County, Wisconsin		Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE)	HMRE provides an array of comprehensive services to support healthy marriages and relationships, as well as activities to promote economic stability and mobility.
Family & Workforce Centers of America St. Louis City and St. Louis Counties, Missouri		Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE)	CAE helps individuals avoid sexual risks by promoting positive youth development.
Mission West Virginia In fourteen (14) counties throughout West Virginia	Family and Youth Services Bureau, Grant: • CAE Grant Program, • PREP Grant Program	Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	PREP combines the areas of healthy relationships, teen pregnancy prevention, and positive youth development, with the goal to help youth prepare for adulthood.
Trinity Church Miami-Dade County, Florida			

Tip of the Month from Ann Wolter, Senior Evaluation Associate

Tapping into Partner Enthusiasm



When implementing educational programs, site staff that carries out the implementation can be your organization's greatest advocates. They witness the transformative process—including the compelling “aha” moments—as clients progress through the program. Site staff and clients celebrate together as individuals and families slowly build new and healthy relationships or repair an important pre-existing one that may have been neglected. Some also learn to let go of unhealthy relationships.

Site partners may experience the impact of the program first-hand or through follow up discussions with participants. When asked, site staff can spread the word about their strong belief in the importance of the program and of its powerful, long-lasting effects to a variety of community stakeholders.

In spite of their enthusiasm for the program, site staff can remain an untapped resource for marketing. They may be unaware of the breadth of additional services offered by the grantee agency.

The following are some ideas for tapping into the power of site staff enthusiasm:

1. As part of the site recruitment process, share with site staff written information about the full program, not only the component that you propose to implement at their site.
2. Share information about your other organizational programs, its strong leadership, along with how needs match services. Encourage the site staff's contact person to learn more about your organization.
3. After a site has experienced the program for one or two program cycles, and as you perceive that the staff has become believers in your program, meet with them again to discuss the program and any needs they might have for additional sites.
4. Provide written materials for the site in the form of program and organizational brochures which can in turn be shared with other organizations that may have an interest in the program. Ask if you can leave multiple copies so that it can be distributed to other professionals at conferences or through other avenues.
5. Finally, ask if you can add the organization to a mailing list to receive monthly newsletters or brief updates about your program. Include in these announcements upcoming events that are open to the public such as upcoming classes. Also include a running list of all the available services and programs.

Site staff members who serve as agency contacts may have thought about how others could benefit from your services. Take some steps to help them share the good news of what the program has done for those they serve!

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Correction from Last Month's Newsletter

There was a mistake in last month's newsletter, September, 2015, in the article titled, "TPPP and Title X is in Peril, but we can Save Them." The article stated that the Senate proposed a reduction in funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) and for the Title X Family Planning Program, both by 80%. Although the proposal to reduce spending for TPPP by 80% is correct, the proposed reduction for Title X is 10%. Keep in mind this proposed cut to Title X is still very significant, but it's not as steep as it was stated in the above-referenced article.

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