



Child, Home & Community

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A United Way Member Agency



Scholarship Success

People often shake their heads when the topic of teenage pregnancy comes up. It's such a shame, what were they thinking, how will someone so young be able to raise a child? At CHC, staff and clients often hear those phrases repeated. It's true that teen pregnancy and parenting is filled with many challenges. Then what does it take to turn

an adverse life situation into a success story?

Jessica DePree was 15 years old and pregnant when she left difficult conditions at home and moved in with her grandmother. She transferred to a new high school where she didn't know anyone. Everyone has an opinion of teen pregnancy and teens can be especially hard on their

peers. Jess had a hard time adjusting without the support of established friends.

Jess began to attend CHC's weekly support group at her school, where she met other young moms and dads who could understand and support her. She gained the knowledge needed to be able

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Giving Back

Kids Who Care

Eleven year old Emily Adar, a fifth grader at New Hope/Solebury Elementary has a special place in her heart for children and wanted to choose a service project for her Bat Mitzvah that involved women and children in the community. Not only did she choose Child, Home and Community as the recipient of the efforts of her project, but she has selflessly requested her family and friends to make donations to CHC in lieu of giving her gifts this year for her Birthday, Chanukah and her Bat Mitzvah.

Alexa Brand, an honor student at Holicong Middle

School and Miss Pre Teen Pennsylvania, also has a strong sense of altruism and desire to make a difference. As part of her community

proudly donated to CHC. Alexa feels that through her service she has gained self esteem and experienced the joy that comes from helping others.



Knit Wits

On a gray and cold day in January the offices of CHC were happy to have Kay Lehman and friends from the "Knit Wits" drop by to deliver large shopping bags full of beautifully hand-knit baby hats, blankets, mittens, and sweaters.

For 25 years the "Knit Wits," a group of women from Sanctuary United Methodist Church in Lansdale, have gathered

service, she has reached out to local churches, neighbors and friends to collect an assortment of diapers, wipes and layettes which she

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CHC Welcomes New Board members

The Board of Directors has a significant role in ensuring the success and stability of the agency through their vision and leadership. These men and women bring a diverse mix of attributes, skills, and community connections. Board members work closely with the Executive Director in the areas of fundraising, finance, marketing, and strategic planning.

Child, Home & Community is proud to announce the appointment of these three new Board members:

Kim Cizerle of Buckingham will serve on the Fundraising Committee. In addition to raising her two sons, ages four and six, Kim works part-time as an



environmental engineer. Since 2006, she has been an active member of the MOM'S Club of Buckingham, whose mission is to support women who choose to stay home and raise their

children and to perform service projects that benefit other mothers and children in Bucks County. The MOM'S Club has given generously to CHC over the years. Kim wishes to serve on the CHC Board of Directors for the same reason she joined the MOM'S Club: "Every child deserves a good start in life, and each parent deserves the support necessary to make that happen. I fully support CHC's mission of empowering young parents with education and advocacy."

Larry Nolt of Souderton will serve on the Finance Committee. He is Senior Vice President & Branch Manager of National Penn Capital's Souderton branch. Larry holds a M.B.A. and is a Certified Financial Planner. He is active in various community organizations and is Past President of the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club. Larry enjoys being on the Board, as his wife was a childbirth instructor with CHC. "I find the importance of relating to teen mothers and childbirth education to be an important educational benefit that is being offered to the community



by CHC. And the testimonials of the young parents who finish the class are proof positive as to the importance and accomplishments of the program.

Maxine Romano of Ambler will serve as Treasurer for the Finance Committee. She is an audit manager at Kreisler Miller in Horsham. Her primary focus is assisting and auditing not-for-profit organizations.



Maxine comments, "Working with non-profit organizations gives me a sense of purpose. I have been very fortunate and believe in giving back to the community. Working with many of my clients has been a real eye opener to the many challenges that young teens face in today's society."

"CHC is thrilled to have these new members join our Board. They each bring expertise in their respective professional fields, relationships in the community and a strong desire to support our programs to ensure a healthy and safe start for each child born to these young parents," says Beth Styer, Executive Director. ♥

Giving Back

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weekly for fellowship, as they knit and crochet for babies in need. The group started in the early 1980's when they realized that many local young women giving birth lacked basics such as baby blankets. "It was hard to believe that in our affluent society, something as basic as a baby blanket was simply not available to every young mother," said Lehman.

CHC is extremely appreciative to Emily, Alexa and the talented women from the "Knit Wits" for their hard work and dedication to helping our mission of building a better future for our community's children. We welcome any gesture your schools, churches or service groups might extend to help our clients. ♥

New Staff

Becky Van Dine joined CHC in December 2007 as Office Administrator. Becky has a Bachelor's in Social Work from Temple University and has worked for several non-profits for the past 18 years, both as a social worker and a development coordinator. Becky has also done parenting classes for CHC as a consultant.

Maureen Keyte joined CHC in February as the new Director of Development. Maureen has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Temple University and has experience in public relations, advertising sales and feature writing. Maureen has also been a volunteer for local non-profits for several years.



Building a better future for children!

Day for Teen Parents

CHC staff, led by Diane Jones, held the annual “Day for Teen Parents” on Thursday, February 28th at Newtown Presbyterian Church. Fifty-eight teen moms and dads from nine local school districts attended. Representatives from 15 Bucks County social services agencies and 15 colleges, technical and trade programs were available throughout the morning to speak to the students. Members of the church set up a “shopping mall” with hundreds of donated infant



Staff members: Becky Van Dine, Diane Jones, Nekesha Wilkerson, Randi McCreesh, Kathy Thyberg and Bob Malehorn at Day for Teen Parents



items including equipment, clothing and books. Students were able to go home with bagfuls of much needed items.

After the agency and career fair, the teen parents had an opportunity to choose two out of ten workshop sessions offered including: Keep Your Child Safe, Body Image, Child Support, Dental Care, Relationships, and Dreams for Your Children. The day concluded with a student drama team trained by Planned Parenthood performing skits on safe sex and relationships. One teacher who brought a group from her school said, “Of all the field trips the students attend in a year, this is the best!” ♥

Scholarship Success

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to care for her baby. Jess worked hard during high school. She set goals for the future and took the steps to reach them.

Jess wanted to apply for a scholarship offered by an anonymous donor through CHC. Many clients are overwhelmed by the thought of writing an essay and Jess was no exception. Her group instructor provided encouragement and direction with writing her essay. Jess was awarded the scholarship. She graduated with good grades and was accepted into Bucks County Community College

with plans to attend their R.N. program.

Jess is currently completing her core requirements and has just recently received the exciting news that she was accepted into the Nursing Program! Jess has worked at a retirement center since high school. She needed to go from part time to full time in order to provide medical benefits for herself and her daughter, Hailey. As a result of working full time she had to cut back on her course load. Jess says, “I have worked hard for three years

to get this. Going to school part-time it took me longer than imagined, but I did it!” It will take Jess longer to complete her degree, but with determination and hard work she will. Hailey, now 5 years old, takes gymnastics lessons and starts Kindergarten next fall.

The donor is so pleased with their progress that he continues to help fund Jess’ education.

What does it take to help a young parent overcome the challenges of early pregnancy and parenthood? As Jess wrote to her donor, “It

might take me an extra year to finish than I planned but please don’t lose hope in me. I cannot thank you enough for believing in me. I want you to know that by helping me, by letting me know a complete stranger has faith in me, it has pushed me beyond belief.”

Won’t you join with Jessica’s scholarship donor and show your faith in a young mom or dad? **You really can make a difference.** ♥



CHILD, HOME AND COMMUNITY

144 Wood Street
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Visit CHC on-line at www.CHCinfo.org

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Building Blocks

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Thank you to Jamie Broderick of Network Now for her support of Child, Home and Community. Network Now is a networking organization that is committed to the success of both women-owned businesses and non-profits that support women and girls.

www.bucksnetworking.com

SAVE THE DATES!

Tuesday, June 10th, 2008

From 7-9 P.M.

**Mom's Night Out -
Board Member Celebrity Bartender
at Chambers19 in Doylestown**

*Kick off the Summer
and help support CHC*

Friday, October 17th, 2008
**Fall Fundraising Dance at
the beautiful Prallsvill Mill
in Stockton, NJ**

More details to come...

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, please consider donating to CHC to help our young mothers reach their goals.

