

Programs like Project Redirection in El Paso, Texas which meets an array of needs from emergency housing, to health care, to education, to employment...with great success.

Consider the recent example of the teen who called her community YWCA when she first suspected she was pregnant. A case manager arranged a pregnancy test which confirmed her fears. While she decided to keep her baby, the YW would have supported whichever choice she made. With our guidance, she enrolled in a general equivalency degree program, entered a business college and now works full time, providing for herself and her child.

The YWCA gave her what most girls her age need: support, guidance, encouragement and information. We gave her reason to hope and the positive example of girls who had gone before her. We told her it could be done and we showed her how.

And she did it. She beat the odds.

But she may not have done it without the generosity of contributors. People like you. People who want to help a girl create a dream.

With your contribution of \$30, \$50, \$100, or more, you're helping us to reach out to a teen mother as she struggles to defy the signs that read "Dead End."

With your help we can prevent premature motherhood from becoming a life sentence of struggle and despair.

With your support you're also reaching out to other teen girls. Because as proud as we are of our success in working with teen mothers, we're happier if we reach girls before they get pregnant.

We're happier when we help her create a dream and then give her the tools she needs to realize it.

But without the support of contributors like yourself, over half of our teens would not find the programs they need at their community YWCAs.

Programs like the Teen Life Guidance Success Program that serves girls thirteen to eighteen years old from Chicago's south side. It teaches them the economic and emotional consequences of teen pregnancy. It guides them as they plot out their own anti-poverty program.

It gives them, in effect, a personal road map from poverty...to hope.

Because if a teenager has hope maybe she will start to fill that emptiness with things like self-respect, knowledge and a faith that the future will be friendly.