



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2000

Contact: Jeff Travers
202-332-2303

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Joins DC Campaign to
Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Saluting Five Outstanding
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs**

*White House Ceremony Lauds the Efforts of Community-Based Programs Involving
Teens in the Effort to Reduce Teen Pregnancy in DC*

Washington, DC– The First Lady of the United States joined DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on February 23rd in saluting five community-based teen pregnancy prevention programs working to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in the District of Columbia. DC Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Ward 8 DC Councilmember Sandy Allen also joined members of the Board of Directors of DC Campaign and other community leaders. Teen members and adult leadership of each organization accepted the awards at the event.

The event was part of a two-day launch of DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Others events included a town hall teen summit at Children’s National Medical Center and the release of a new survey, “Common Sense: Teens and Adults Speak Out About Teen Pregnancy in the District of Columbia.” DC Campaign is a new non-profit organization with the mission of cutting the city’s teen pregnancy rate in half by 2005. The District of Columbia’s alarming rate of teen pregnancy– currently one in seven– compared with the 1996 national average of one in ten is what drives DC Campaign.

Details about the programs of each organization recognized at the White House event are follows:

Life Pieces to Masterpieces

Focusing on young men and boys in urban communities, Life Pieces to Masterpieces engages young people in self discovery by providing mentoring, encouraging artistic expression and rewarding that expression with community recognition. The program emphasizes the values of spiritual principals, meditation, loving, giving, language, arts, discipline, and leadership.

– Continued –

Teen Life Choices

Started in 1987 by a group of citizens concerned about the alarming rate of teen pregnancy in Ward 7, the goal of Teen Life Choices is to prevent pregnancy among teens and to reduce infant mortality. A drop-in center provides counseling, pregnancy screening, and support for pregnant teens; daily after school programs with tutoring, supervised home-work sessions, snack and recreation; a summer enrichment program; and an outreach program to six elementary, middle and high schools in addition to regular community outreach.

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care provides a bilingual, culturally-sensitive Teen Health Services Program offering primary health care, pregnancy prevention, counseling and educational support to uninsured adolescents. The Center's Saturday Teen Clinic provides outreach to local high schools and gives teens a place of their own for health educations and services.

Children's National Medical Center- Generations Program

The Generations Program was developed to meet the needs of young teen parents and their children by addressing all aspects of teen parenting from education about child nutrition to family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Generations provides complete medical services for both teen parents and their children and works to help prevent teens from becoming second-time parents through psychological support, employment counseling, parenting education and connections to social service agencies.

Children's National Medical Center- Teens Against the Spread of AIDS (TASA)

TASA is a diverse group of local public and private high school students, who conduct performance workshops locally, nationally, and internationally focusing on situations that create risks for teens and then exploring behavior choices and outcomes. TASA uses health information and theater techniques to develop prevention programs, including professional training for health care providers, weekly workshops and monthly programs for teens.

Covenant House Washington

The Covenant House Washington Peer Supported Pregnancy Prevention Project is based in Ward 8 where teen pregnancy rates are the highest in the city. In four elementary schools, 20 boys and girls are trained to be peer leaders and peer educators. They communicate values, morals, and information about the negative outcomes of premature parenting as a way to prevent teen pregnancy. The goal is to develop a three-year Youth Leadership Development program modeled on traditional fraternities and sororities.

DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a non-profit organization with the mission of cutting the teen pregnancy rate in the District of Columbia in half by 2005. Acting as a catalyst for improved services across the spectrum of the city's teen pregnancy prevention initiatives, DC Campaign shines a high voltage spotlight on teen pregnancy prevention, and is a transfer agent for skills, a lever to increase financial support for effective programs, a convener of experts and networks, a promoter of best practices, and a training resource for parents, community leaders and health professionals.

– END –