

# YOUTHFORCHRIST'S *Teen*parents

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

**TEEN PARENTS** is a relational ministry that reaches out to pregnant and parenting teenagers and their children. **Our mission** is to support, encourage, and equip them with the life, relationship and parenting skills they need. **Our goal** is to see these young families become emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually healthy. **Our purpose** is to see them become successful, responsible adults and life-long followers of Jesus Christ.

## **WHY IS TEEN PARENTS IMPORTANT?**

Approximately 1 million teenagers get pregnant in the United States each year. Teen pregnancy knows no socio-economic, cultural, racial or geographic boundaries. Teen Parents provides strategic tools that are effective in reaching this unique population of teens who are often experiencing the challenges of addictions, domestic violence, peer pressure, lack of self-respect . . . **and** . . . they are raising children!

## **WHAT DOES TEEN PARENTS LOOK LIKE?**

A Teen Parents program can look different in every community as it responds to the unique needs of their local teen parent population. Teen Parent ministry sites will often include one or more of the following program models:

- **Education Focused** – working to help teen parents complete their high school education by providing classroom instruction and tutoring in core subjects. This program model is often accomplished in close partnership with community agencies.
- **Mentoring** – developing intentional one-on-one relationships which allow trained adults the opportunity to model a Christ-centered life.
- **School Based** – working in partnership with local high schools providing parenting education, special resources and support.
- **Support Groups** – meeting regularly to connect with young parents while helping them to develop healthy relationships, parenting and life skills. Group meetings are an important opportunity for teenage parents to provide peer support for each other. Ministry to the children of teen parents is also a vital component with this program model.

All Teen Parent program models partner with community resources in order to provide tangible needs to pregnant and parenting teens and their children.

In every Teen Parents ministry there are **5 Essentials** that we practice in order to bring about real change in a young person's life. They include:

**Collaborative Community Strategy:** In order for us to successfully address the many urgent needs of a parenting teenager and their child, it is essential for Teen Parents ministry sites to work collaboratively with local churches, organizations, community agencies and other partners.

**Faithful Bible Teaching:** The Bible is the ultimate manual that teaches life, relationship and parenting skills. We accurately and consistently teach its truth so that young parents can apply it to their lives and the lives of their children.

**Widespread Prayer:** In a ministry most often filled with crisis, heartbreak and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, prayer sustains us.

**Adults Who Empower:** We empower adults to nurture, mentor and build genuine relationships with teen parents and their children in order to model a healthy, Christ-centered life.

**Loving Relationships:** As part of the body of Christ, God's love compels us to pursue and love lost pregnant and parenting teens and their children in order to engage them in life long relationships with Jesus.