

Planned Parenthood helps parents talk to teens



Crossroads aids teens in making informed decisions

“Parents want to be good sex educators,” said Debra Marcus, Chief Executive Officer of Planned Parenthood of South Central New York, Inc., “but may not always understand how to do the job well.”

To make this important step in parenting easier, in 2004, the Broome County United Way made possible a highly successful program, **Crossroads**, a free, confidential service for teens and families in Broome County. Crossroads connects trained educators with individuals or groups at a location convenient to them, such as home, school or church, or at Crossroads’ teen center at Planned Parenthood in Binghamton. Since its opening last year, Crossroads has helped hundreds of teens, parents and families learn about trust, communication, healthy

relationships, friendships, self-respect, and how to discuss sexuality and birth control if necessary. Trained educators help families talk about topics that are sometimes difficult or embarrassing.

PPSCNY gives parents tools they need to educate their kids

Parents and guardians in our community now have two more valuable resources to help them educate their children about sexuality. Thanks to a Venture Grant from the Broome County United Way, PPSCNY has developed two new tools to help parents and guardians teach their children about sexuality: education: a parent information web page, www.ppscny.org/family and three mobile libraries for schools, community groups, religious organizations, or other youth-serving agencies to borrow.

PPSCNY’s educational programs in Broome County have reached nearly 1,800 people. Around 19,000 people have seen PPSCNY’s educational displays at libraries and health fairs throughout Broome County.

With the new web page, parents can utilize a variety of sex ed resources including a list of useful books about sexuality, and web links to trusted organizations such as SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

“It’s important to start early, to talk often and to listen as much as you talk.” said Marcus. “Our web page and mobile libraries can help parents and guardians teach children responsible, positive attitudes and behaviors.” Research shows that adolescents who have discussed issues of sexuality with their parents are more likely to delay having sex and to use contraception correctly and consistently.

To learn more about this and other programs funded by the **Planned Parenthood of South Central New York**, call (607) 723-8306 or email: ppscny@ppfa.org

Funding **Planned Parenthood** is part of United Way’s effort in “**Promoting Health and Wellness**,” part of its **Six Areas of Community Service**.

To learn more about **United Way** and the programs it funds in Broome County, visit unitedwaybroome.org.

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