



teen lifeline

life lived better

...providing a safe place of acceptance, empowerment and support.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 3 - Fall 2009

July	August	September	Teen Parents	Teen Lifeline Staff	Board Members
The summer schedule allowed us the unique opportunity to facilitate a Cell group at All Church Home in Fort Worth. ACH houses a shelter for teens needing help. The ability to impact these students in crisis is very much what we are about.	We are proud to announce this month that we welcomed a new Executive Director. Chris Hatchett, has joined our team and will be working in an administrative role to help TL move forward. Read below to learn more about his passion for what we are doing in the community.	As we continue to reach out, this month we added a Cell group in the Granbury ISD. The alternative school there is using the TL curriculum to help direct the high school students in their school.	For the first time since RHCC began reaching teen parents, we were able to offer our services during the summer months. This proved to be a blessing to those that needed it, culminating at our September meeting with our largest group yet, with 26 attending.	Chris Hatchett Executive Director hatch@lifelivedbetter.org Ricky Lewis Program Director ricky@lifelivedbetter.org	Craig Stone David Frazee Dale Hart Julie Thannum Katie Shotts Melissa Barrow Eric Freebee Rick Kempe David Gililland

Connecting.

As more opportunities arise for Teen Lifeline I encourage you to visit our blog frequently for new stories and updates on what we are involved in. You can find it at www.lifelivedbetter.org/blog. Here I want to just share one story that has come from the Cell group at Shannon Learning Center.

The more visits I make to schools the more open students become with telling me what they are dealing with and opening up about the struggles they are going through. They may not perceive them as struggles but they are none the less.

One student during a group began sharing about his drug use and his family's drug use and how the friends he hangs out with use drugs as well. I would love to tell you I had some magic statement that turned him around, but we all know that doesn't exist.

Instead I'm telling you this to say, there is more we can be doing. We are already looking into new and different ways to have an impact in teenagers' lives, to connect with them. Part of this student's problem was obvious, he has been labeled a "druggie." That is what people expect from him and that is what he delivers.



We are proud to welcome Chris Hatchett as our new Executive Director. Teen Lifeline is excited about the passion Chris shares for what we are doing.

As we encounter more of these situations we are anxious to find new and better ways to help these teens.

Upcoming Events

This December 5th join us for our inaugural Teen Lifeline 5K Run/Walk. Details are updated on our website and can be found by clicking this link,

lifelivedbetter.org/events

Meet Chris Hatchett, Executive Director

I am a dad of two teenagers and one tweener. I have also worked with teens for over 20 years. However, my education on the lives of teenagers continues. I recently attended a meeting where a North Richland Hills police officer discussed the danger of child predators. Our teens can become a target at any point of their daily lives. Innocent behaviors such as video games, texting and social networking can subject them to potential dangers. I encountered another study on the impact of faith on teenagers' lives as they transition into college. The news isn't good. Even church attending teens who have never had alcohol or been sexually active face an uphill battle in college. As much as 50% of them walk away from their faith during these last teenage years. The easiest reaction may be to stick our heads in the sand or ignore the truth. Another reaction could be over-reaction - trying to force faith down our teens throats while locking them up in their bedroom. The good news is we don't have to do either. We can face the facts, and do our best to prepare teens to live life better. Thanks for teaming with us as we try to make a difference

Chris Hatchett
Executive Director, Teen Lifeline, Inc.