



teen lifeline

life lived better

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1 - Spring 2009

January	February	March	Teen Parents	Teen Lifeline Staff	Board Members
As the school year began we utilized relationships that had been built with administration and students to begin to set up ways Teen Lifeline could offer our services to those needing it most.	Plans began to form to start our first groups in the Birdville School District. Excitement and anticipation of how this would look grew as Ricky and the program committee brainstormed the right approach.	The first CELL groups begin at Shannon Learning Center and Fort Worth Christian School. The focus in these group is to promote communication about how teens can handle the life they are dealing with in a successful way.	January, February, and March have all been good months. We have hosted and helped 22 teen moms in our community with supplies and learning parenting skills. Your financial donations have been put to good use.	Dale Hart Executive Director dale@lifelivedbetter.org Ricky Lewis Program Director ricky@lifelivedbetter.org	Craig Stone David Frazee Chris Hatchett Julie Thannum Katie Shotts Melissa Barrow Eric Freebee Rick Kempe David Gililland

Making a difference.

As Teen Lifeline begins to have impact in our community we want you to know that the effect we are having is making a difference. The difference comes in the lives of those that we reach out and touch.

In our desire to connect to other organizations so that we can share resources, we have built strong relationships and already we are using these connections as referral points and to promote the services we provide as well. Places like Winfree Academy (a charter school) whose teen mom director has attended our monthly meetings bringing girls in need with her. Working in the same building as the Community Enrichment Center allowed me to meet Brandy Schimmel, who designed and performed our first mentor training. These mentors are now equipped to work directly with teen moms who need that extra care and support. In just another month we will participate in a training offered by Keller ISD for crisis



For those of you that have not seen our office building yet, here is an outside photo in case you are ever in our area. Since I am often at schools please let me know before you visit.

intervention. This will allow Teen Lifeline volunteers to be utilized in a crisis situation in that school district just north of us. These and other relationships continue to grow allowing us to help teens *LIVE LIFE BETTER*.

It's just illegal

In one of the groups I was facilitating we were discussing the option we all have to deal with life

stress in various ways. Some choose drugs & alcohol, or jump from relationship to relationship. One student offered that smoking pot has been his choice since 8 years of age. I discussed with the group the effects of drug use and consequences that could come about. In a few minutes he got my attention and in a very matter of fact way, let me know that all I was doing was telling him the same thing his parents had for years, "It's illegal". I kindly offered that I did not intend to do that since he already knew that and he would benefit from finding his own reason for not smoking pot. A few more minutes past and he spoke up again. This time he said that maybe the fact that his fiance is expecting a baby would be a good reason to quit. Trying to hold back my excitement I said "Yes, that is a very good reason not to smoke pot." That is why we do what we do.

Thank You

Many of you getting this newsletter have financially contributed to Teen Lifeline. We just want you to know that we really appreciate your involvement and we couldn't do this without you. And to those that have donated supplies or volunteered time know that we could never put a price on that. THANK YOU!

Ricky Lewis

