

# The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy Youth Leadership Team

## ABOUT THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

Founded in 1996, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported almost entirely by private donations. Our mission is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation.

Our strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy, especially among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.

By increasing the proportion of children born into welcoming, intact families prepared to take on the demanding task of raising the next generation, our efforts will improve the well-being of children and strengthen the nation.



“It was such an honor to be a part of the Youth Leadership Team. Each meeting was packed full of fun activities and great ideas. I cannot thank you enough for offering this opportunity.”

~ former YLT member

### **WHAT IS THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM?**

Created in 1998, the Youth Leadership Team (YLT) seeks to faithfully reflect the views of teens in The National Campaign’s work and give voice to their unique perspectives by getting them actively involved – both nationally and locally – in teen pregnancy prevention efforts. To date, 132 teens from 37 states and the District of Columbia have participated in five YLT classes. They come from communities large and small, urban and rural, from every geographic region of the nation, and from highly diverse backgrounds and opinion.

Each YLT class is recruited from national, state, and local youth-serving organizations, such as the 4-H Club, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, Students Against Destructive Decisions, the Girl Scouts, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the United Native Indian Tribal Youth Council, and others of similar caliber and reach.

The YLT typically meets two or three times over an 18-month period in Washington, DC. The National Campaign underwrites transportation, meals, and lodging associated with with YLT meetings.

*(continued on reverse)*

## **WHAT DOES THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM DO?**

The YLT serves as the primary teen voice for The National Campaign. During their term, YLT members participate in a variety of activities that both promote teen pregnancy prevention and expand their own abilities as well. They receive media training to work with the press; we help them plan projects in their own communities to raise awareness of the issue; and we include them in many of our own activities as well, including media interviews, forums on Capitol Hill, and training for teens in various states and communities.

YLT members have been featured in media outlets nationwide, including the *Associated Press*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Teen People*, *Scholastic Magazine*, MTV, CNN, Channel One News, Court TV, and *La Opinion* (a Spanish-language newspaper) in stories related to both their personal experiences and to their YLT activities.

YLT members have also helped to shape Campaign publications such as *Thinking About the Right Now*, *Voices Carry*, and *Talking Back: Ten Things Teens Want Parents to Know About Teen Pregnancy*. The YLT was also instrumental in helping The National Campaign develop messages for our Stay Teen public service campaign.

“Being on the Youth Leadership Team was great because I learned a lot about teen pregnancy prevention and how to make a difference in my own community.”

~ former YLT member



## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REQUIREMENTS**

- At least 14 years of age and younger than 18 years of age as of June 22, 2009.
- Nominated by an adult sponsor.
- Committed to working in their community on teen pregnancy prevention during and between YLT meetings.
- Able to participate in all YLT meetings and events and make the required commitment of time and energy.
- Able to travel at least twice over an 18-month period to attend YLT meetings in Washington, DC and other Campaign-sponsored events (Note: The first YLT meeting is expected to take place August 12-14, 2009. All members must attend.)
- Interested in talking to local and national media about the role of teens in teen pregnancy prevention.
- Willing to work respectfully with others.

## **APPLYING FOR THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Campaign is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 Youth Leadership Team. Applications can be downloaded from the National Campaign's website at [www.TheNationalCampaign.org](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org). **Applications must be submitted by June 22, 2009.**

If you are interested in receiving a nomination packet or learning more about the YLT or the National Campaign, please visit the Campaign's website at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) or contact Michael Rosst at (202) 478-8507 or at [mrosst@thenc.org](mailto:mrosst@thenc.org).