United Way of Greater Milwaukee

In 2006, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Advisory Committee released a startling new report on teen pregnancy. What they discovered was that teen pregnancy in our community is bred of sexual victimization and poverty. United Way is tackling the issue through its Healthy Girls initiative, and an aggressive citywide public awareness campaign, among other strategies.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Initiative: Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Sexual Violence Against Girls
Healthy Girls

Teen Pregnancy & Sexual Violence

In Wisconsin, 71% of the babies born are fathered, not by teen boys, but by men over the age of 20.

85% of teen births in Wisconsin are paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers (the national average cost for each teen birth is estimated at nearly $80k).

Over half of teen moms were sexually assaulted prior their first pregnancy.

Two-thirds of teen moms never finish high school and are less apt to have a job paying above minimum wage and more likely to receive public assistance.

RESULT
99.7% of Pearls for Teen Girls program participants remained pregnancy free.

What is United Way Doing?

- Conducting a citywide public awareness campaign through the nonprofit advertising agency, SERVE, targeting businesses, the general public and teens.
- Continues to fund proven programs through *Healthy Girls*, an initiative focused on preventing teen pregnancy and sexual violence.
- Formed a committee charged with developing strategies that address the connection between sexual violence and teen pregnancy.
- Surveyed over 20 local funders to create a communitywide collaboration towards teen pregnancy prevention.

Why Teen Pregnancy Prevention?

Research shows a direct link between teen pregnancy and poverty for both the teen mother and her children. By investing in programs that address teen pregnancy and sexual violence, United Way can help break the cycle of poverty. The Healthy Girls Project is a special United Way initiative that focuses on the health and well-being of girls in our community.

United Way Healthy Girls Programs
**2006 only, 2007 grants not yet awarded*

SMART Girls
Boys & Girls Clubs

Safe Relationships
Children's Outing Association

Hand in Hand
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee

Becoming a Responsible Teen
Meta House

Sexual Assault Prevention Program
The Healing Center

Making Proud Choices
PEARLS for Teen Girls

Milwaukee Plain Talk Initiative
City of Milwaukee Health Department

RELATE
The Parenting Network