



Futuros Alcanzables Delaying parenthood to achieve the dream

By Deniece Chevannes

Research has shown that for all teens there is a direct correlation between teen pregnancy and many worrying social indicators. For example teen parents are more likely to drop out of school, have repeat teen pregnancies and not earn as much as teens who delay parenthood. Children of teen parents are more likely to experience: poverty, health problems and difficulties in school.

In the last decade there has been great success in reducing the overall teen pregnancy rate in Georgia and the United States by 30%; that success however has not been shared equally among all teens. Teen pregnancy is more acute in the Latino community:

- 53% of Latina teens become pregnant at least once by age 20 — this is nearly twice the national average for other teens.
- more than 69% of Latina teen moms drop out of high school.
- the Latina teen pregnancy rate is declining at 50% the pace of the national rate

These disparities require action and attention. Latinos are the fastest growing & youngest ethnic group in the country. Current estimates indicate that 40% of Latinos in this country are under the age 19 and it is expected that by the year 2020 one in every five teens will be Latino. This growth in population coupled with current teen pregnancy statistics indicates that there is great work to be done by all: parents, youth, service providers and the community. This inclusive, comprehensive approach will help to ensure that our Latino youth have an opportunity to develop their full

potential and achieve success in the future.

G-CAPP is committed to reducing Latino teen pregnancy in Georgia through our initiative Futuros Alcanzables; which collaborates with organizations, communities and systems to increase their capacity to develop and sustain effective strategies to delay parenthood and help our youth achieve a brighter future. Our strategy is to provide parents and community leaders with the information and skills they need to communicate more effectively with teens about responsible sexual behavior. Ultimately, our goal is to have every Latino adolescent engaged in a research proven program in their community.

Research strongly indicates the best way to delay teen pregnancy and prevent STI and HIV is to change at least one behavior that contributes to early pregnancy and disease. Targeted behaviors include: delaying sexual initiation, reducing the frequency of sexual intercourse, reducing the number of sexual partners and increasing the use of condoms and other contraceptives. There are six effective programs and four promising programs that tackle Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention:

Effective Programs:

- Draw the Line. Respect the Line
- ¡Cuidate!
- Safer Choices
- Children's Aid Society- Carrera Program
- Reach for Health Community Poder Latino

Promising Programs:

- Wise Guys/Jóvenes Sabios
- Pathways/Senderos
- Plain Talk/Hablando Claro
- Como Planear Mi Vida

GCAPP believes that Latinos have unique cultural principles such as *familismo*, respect and support that provide the basis for strong family relationships and rock-solid parenting practices that coupled with research based techniques will allow Latino parents to be successful in guiding their children to delay parenthood and achieve all their dreams.

For more information on Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention and the services GCAPP offers, please contact Deniece Chevannes at 404-475-6056 or deniece@gcapp.org you can also visit our website www.gcapp.org



LATINO HEALTH SUMMIT Emory Conference Center

February 27 to 28 2009



The work of the HHC GA Latino Health Summit, funded by a grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, will be guided by the recommendations of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Report, "Latino Health, Georgia's Future: Strategies for Improving the Health of Latinos in the State". This report clearly describes obstacles faced by Latinos seeking healthcare in Georgia.

The HHC GA Latino Health Summit draws key leaders from around the state, convened to develop an action plan and a panel of recognized experts will lay the groundwork for four workgroups, identified as follows: Cultural and Linguistic Barriers, Political and Legal Barriers/Advocacy, mapping Resources and Research, Health Challenges and Improving Outcomes.

For more Information about the above events please contact

Mayira Bunting at Hhcga.summit@gmail.com

The Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia is funded by National Council of La Raza (NCLR), Healthcare Georgia Foundation, and the Fund for Southern Communities.

Diversity Health Champion Award

Dr. Flavia Mercado, a longtime HHC GA Board Member and fervent supporter of our coalition, was recently honored by the "Center for Black Women's Wellness" (CBWW) at their 20th Anniversary Awards Reception at Atlantic Station on Friday November 14th! It was a full house with adoring family, friend and colleagues in attendance.

The Center for Black Women's Wellness is a non-profit organization committed to improving the health and well-being of women and their families and the economic health of communities.

Dr. Mercado is the Medical Director of the Department of Multicultural Affairs and the International Medical Center at Grady and is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Mercado's touch is far-reaching, not only in her work as a Pediatrician but also in her passion to promote high standards of multicultural health-care and better access for all! She was honored with the "Diversity Health Champion Award". Be sure to pass along congratulations! She has always been and continues to be a treasured member of the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia



DeKalb County School Social Workers ...by Lorenzo Alzaga

The DeKalb County School System is divided into six regions and has a student enrollment of approximately 97,000 housed in 184 elementary, middle and high schools. The school system has 36 school social workers assigned to an average of four schools each. School social workers are certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and hold a Masters Degree in Social Work. Several school social workers have Specialist Degrees, Leadership Certification and or Doctorate.

School social workers intervene when there is a social, familial or economic challenge which impacts the learning process of students. School social workers assist families in identifying community services and resources; provide casework services to students who have problems adjusting to school; facilitate individual and group support sessions; consult with teachers, administrators and parents regarding classroom behavior, school policies, and procedures affecting student performance; act as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse; participate in crisis intervention teams, coordinate with the Juvenile Court and Solicitor General to uphold the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law and insure under the McKinney-Vento Act that homeless students have access to an education.

On October 22, 2009, a group of school social workers presented to the Hispanic Health Coalition. The school social workers selected are assigned to Regions I and II which have a large number of Latino students. They shared information regarding this population, its challenges and opportunities.



..Save the Date..

February 9, 2009 HHC GA Lunch N Learn

"Lead Poisoning in Children", Georgia Poisson
Control @ CETPA..11:30 am-1:00 pm

March 25, 2009 HHC GA Open Call

"Changes in Medicare/Peachcare", Details TBA

April 15, 2009 HHC GA Quarterly Meeting.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Tullie Location..
9am-11am

"Building Community" Innovation . Collaboration . Impact Award

The Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, Inc. was honored to accept the "Building Community" Innovation/Collaboration/Impact Award on November 6th, 2008 at a most elegant event sponsored by the Georgia Center for NonProfits and by The Home Depot Foundation. Maritza Licameli and Susy Martorell were present to accept the award on behalf of the Coalition. HHC GA was one of twenty nonprofits celebrated for our achievements and impact in the Atlanta community. This award is shared with our colleagues at the Coalition who dedicate hours upon hours of volunteer work towards our mission, to make Georgia a healthier home for Latinos.

Congratulations all around!

January is the

**NATIONAL
CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH**

NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

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