



Quarterly Journal

Serving children and families
across Mississippi.

June 2007

MCEC and New Summit School Students Participate in the MDHS Abstinence Rally at the Capitol

MS Community Education Center Staff and students from New Summit School helped kick off the MS Dept. of Human Service's Abstinence Conference with a rally on the Capitol Steps on May 3rd, 2007.



Clockwise from left: MCEC staff and NSS students pose with Miss Teen MS; Students from across the state gather for the rally; white balloons are released as a sign of the teens' abstinence pledges.

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Another Trip to the Capitol as MCEC Executive Staff Contributes to Child Abuse Prevention Month



A Message from the Executive Director



Dr. Nancy Boyll
Executive Director

Summer has just begun, but already so much has been going on at the Mississippi Community Education Center. MCEC has sponsored or participated in a number of important events around the state in order to promote abstinence, healthy marriage programs, and character education. This month we were very pleased with the turnout for our "Girl Power" Retreat at Olde Towne Middle School in Madison. The girls had fun, made new friends, and learned about the importance of remain-

ing abstinent until marriage. Another exciting event was the kickoff rally of National Teen Pregnancy Month at the State Capitol Building in Jackson on May 3rd, photos and article are on page 1 of this newsletter.

Also in May, MCEC staff held a number of abstinence seminars all over the state, including at Northwest Rankin High School, East Elementary School in Greenwood, and the Rankin County Adolescent Offender Program. Other programs were

held on *Communicating with Teens* at the River Region Health Systems, *Child Discipline* in Leake and Warren Counties, *Parenting* in Jackson, and *Self-Esteem* at the Vicksburg Family Development Center.

Thanks to all of our community partners who help us make all of these events successful. MCEC staff is very excited about our many upcoming programs, please check the calendar below for those happening in your community!

Mark your calendar! Upcoming MCEC Events:

On the Books -

Tuesdays in June -11:00AM Jackson Street Community Center Summer Program, Vicksburg

June 16 - "You're a Winner Day" - Vicksburg Public Library

Wednesdays in June - Workshop Info at the Boys and Girls Club in Vicksburg

More Information Coming Soon -

July - Back to School Program at Pemberton Mall

August - Program for 12 year olds at the We Care Center in

Abstinence and Self-Esteem classes at the Vicksburg Family Development Center

Healthy Marriages:

By Linda Pace, Programs Director

Mississippi has the highest rate in the country of children living in single parent homes. This is a profound problem, which studies have shown leads to higher instances of teen pregnancy, poverty, crime, adolescent drug and alcohol abuse, and teen suicide; which is why the Mississippi Community Education Center promotes and supports Healthy Marriage Programs.

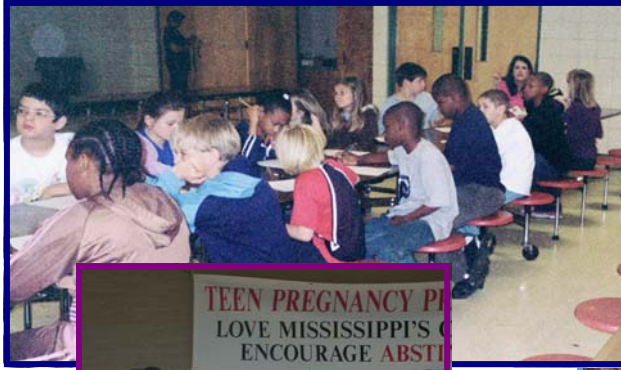
MCEC's Healthy Marriage Programs teach participants, not only the importance of having a healthy marriage, but how to achieve a supportive, loving, and lasting relationship with their spouse. Having a healthy marriage benefits everyone: spouses, their children, even our

communities. Here are a few tips for a better marriage, which MCEC staff teach in their classes:

- Continue "dating" throughout your marriage, make time to romance each other.
- Appreciate your partner, even for the little things. Always say thank you, even if it is just for taking out the garbage or cooking dinner.
- Find 30 minutes a day to talk to your spouse. Turn off the TV, put down the fork, and just focus!

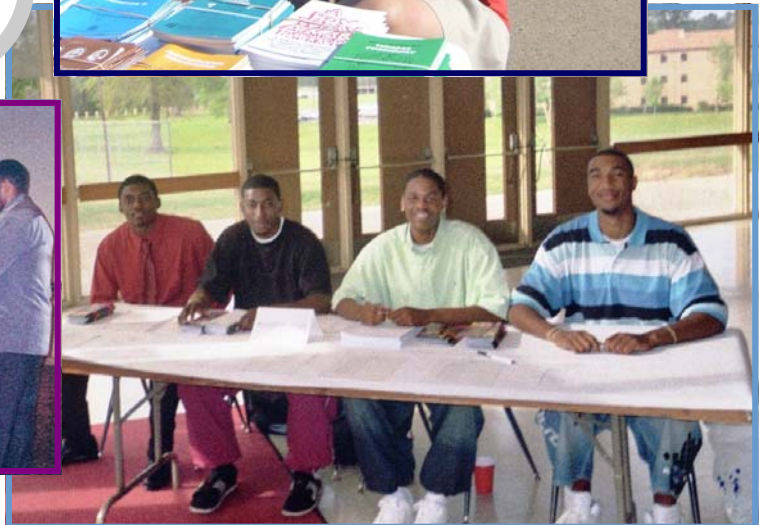
For more information, or to schedule a Healthy Marriage class for your organization, contact the Mississippi Community Education Center at (601) 366-6405.

"Appreciate your spouse, even for the little things. Always say thank you."



M.C.E.C Photo Album

Clockwise from top left: Over 100 students at Pelahatchie High School listen to a presentation on Bullying; Healthy Marriage Class in Greenwood; student volunteers keep cool while distributing abstinence literature at a rally in Charleston; MCEC Volunteers at the Hinds Community College Health Fair inform participants about abstinence; MCEC staff presents an abstinence class at the Church Conference in Tupelo; MCEC student volunteers perform at the DHS Abstinence Rally.



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