August Spotlight

2014 Healthy Teen Network Awardees

Each year, Healthy Teen Network recognizes the important work of individuals and organizations through our awards, presented at our annual national conference. We are excited and proud to announce this year's award recipients!

Susan Tortolero Emery

*Douglas B. Kirby Adolescent Research Award*

Susan Tortolero Emery, Ph.D. is Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences and of Epidemiology at The University of Texas School of Public Health. She is Director of the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research and Director of The University of Texas Prevention Research Center (UTPRC). Dr. Tortolero Emery has more than 20 years of experience conducting research on risk and protective behaviors regarding adolescent physical and mental health. A central focus of her research concerns adolescent sexual and has been Principal Investigator on numerous NIH- and CDC-funded studies and is one of the principal developers of *It's Your Game...Keep It Real!*, a sexual health education curriculum for middle school students proven to delay sexual initiation.

Corey Jones

*Outstanding Teen Parent Award*

Corey Jones has been involved in youth advocacy work for the past 10 years. He started his career as a Peer Educator for the No Kidning program with YouthLaunch, where he educated youth on the rights, responsibilities, and realities of teen parenthood. During his eight years there, he led a team of peer educators, helped develop the curriculum that was used to teach and train the peer educators, and traveled around the county speaking about the life of a teen parent and how youth development programs can empower young parents to achieve their life's goals. Mr. Jones was a credible source because at the tender age of 16 he became a father. He currently works with the Austin Municipal Court as a juvenile case manager for high risk juveniles. He graduated from Texas Lutheran University, and he and his wife, the mother of both of his girls, are still together today. He credits the No Kidning program for playing such a huge role in his life and accomplishments.
Catch up here:

The Importance of Teen Voices: "Nothing about Us without Us"

Connect, Create, and Cultivate: Methods for Networking at a Conference

Evaluation on the Cheap

Using a Logic Model to Support Your Programs

Capacity-Building Assistance

Healthy Teen Network provides capacity-building services, such as training and technical assistance (TA) on a range of topics related to adolescent health and well-being. We are available to support your initiatives with a range of services, including training, TA, keynote addresses, evaluation support, resource development, and more. Visit us online for more information.

Calendar of Events

Healthy Teen Network’s online Calendar of Events connects you with information on important events and national observations.

To submit upcoming events for possible inclusion in the calendar, please email Shanise Taylor.

Mary Jo Podgurski
The Carol Mendez Cassell Award for Excellence in Sexuality Education

“I am blessed to spend my days interacting with young people and I treasure every moment; I believe deeply in their wisdom,” says Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski. “My primary mantra is simple: Every young person is a person of worth.” Dr. Podgurski founded The Washington Health System Teen Outreach in 1968. She began volunteering with pregnant teens in 1976 and has created numerous youth development and education programs using reality-based, interactive educational techniques that are evidence-based and empower youth. She directs a monthly Adolescent Advisory Board of 75 teens, maintains an active peer educator group (since 1995), and produces teen educational dramas through the Real Talk Performers. Dr. Podgurski hosts the Common Ground Teen Center, the only teen center in her community. In 2005 she co-founded the first GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) and continues to volunteer weekly at GSA meetings. Dr. Podgurski is the author of seven books and has presented more than 500 workshops locally, nationally, and internationally.

Georgia Public Private Partnership to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (P3)
Outstanding Emerging Innovation Award

The Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential (GCAPP) is serving as the backbone organization of the Georgia Public Private Partnership to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (P3). P3 has set a state goal to reduce teen pregnancy by 1/3 by 2020. P3 members represent state public agencies, non-profits, and foundations from multiple arenas including education, child welfare, public health, and juvenile justice. P3 partners are strengthening major state systems and building the infrastructure to strengthen the capacity of youth-serving professionals and clinicians to implement quality, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs and reproductive and sexual health clinical practices. P3 has had unprecedented outcomes in changing systems, aligning resources and work, and building a statewide infrastructure to support high quality programs and practices in the last three years.

#NoTeenShame
Spirit of Service Award

#NoTeenShame is the public voice on the issue of teen pregnancy and the unnecessary stigmatization of teen parents. Created by a group of seven young mothers—Natasha Vianna, Gloria Malone, Lisette Orellana, Jasmin Colon, Christina Martinez, Marylouise Kut-Schubert, and Consuelo Greene—across the country (some of whom have never met in person), #NoTeenShame believes no young person should be shamed for his or her reproductive choices. “What #NoTeenShame has really shown me, as simply one of its core members, is that online advocacy is that born out of speaking up when something is wrong is powerful, purposeful, and can change the way people think about certain topics,” says Gloria Malone.

Awards will be presented at Synergy: Achieving More Together. This can’t-miss event will feature keynotes by Kenya Solomon Masala and Dr. Wanda Jones, engaging plenary sessions, skills-building workshops,