



# Teens With a Purpose **THE MOVEMENT** Changing the World One Teen at a Time!

P.O. Box 2658 Chesapeake, VA 23327 Phone: (757) 503-3509 Fax: (757) 227-4137

## **TWP – The Movement Biography**

Teens With a Purpose originated in 1996. Our mission then was to provide HIV & STD prevention services to teens considered at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS. It began as a ministry funded through the faith initiative grants awarded to The Basilica Of St. Mary of The Immaculate Conception's HIV/AIDS Ministry from 1996 – 2006 by Virginia Department of Health. The coordinator and originator for the youth ministry Teens With a Purpose was Deirdre A. Love, the founder and current Executive Director for TWP – The Youth Movement



Over the next 10 years the ministry grew. The number of teens participating in our program from the community had exponential growth. In 2007 Teens With a Purpose became a community based organization. We incorporated in 2008 and currently operate as Teens With a Purpose (TWP) – The Youth Movement, a community based, Youth Development, not for profit organization independent of any church yet still serving all faith communities and all of greater Hampton Roads. We have created a community within our organization that supports youth so they can grow up into competent, healthy people and develop to their fullest potential.

Our mission has now expanded:

*"To empower teens and young adults to take charge of their lives through peer-led programs and events. Spread a message of pride, protection, and upward mobility, throughout the youth population using the arts and peer education to heal and help develop young people. Emphasize an education and prevent message to raise awareness and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Provide a nonjudgmental, safe, environment for self expression for all teens."*



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### **Training & Support**

Currently 35 of the 52 registered teens and young adults in our program are trained peer advocates and youth board members. Training is provided by Teens With a Purpose, ACCESS AIDS Care and the AIDS Resource Center, a division of Eastern Virginia Medical School and Artist for Advocacy.

We utilize evidence based curriculums approved by Center for Disease Control that specifically address HIV/STI and teen pregnancy and teen violence along with original presentations prepared by our youth team.

We are proud partners with ACCESS AIDS Care under their MAP (Minority AIDS Project) State funding grant where we are responsible for implementing Community Promise Initiative for African American youth at risk for HIV in Hampton Roads.

We are in the network with other Youth Development organizations associated with Youth Speaks National organization and Brave New Voices.

We are also funded by Virginia Department of Health - Division of Violence Prevention to implement the Choose Respect Intervention designed to prevent dating violence in teens.

Teens With a Purpose – The Youth Movement continues to grow and to use innovative, youth inspired, youth led methods to empower youth people to be make better life choices daily. Our services reach thousands of young people in Hampton Roads yearly during our monthly open mic; our Free 2B Me edutainment workshops; during various community, church and school events and our annual teen forum.





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### **Teens With a Purpose – The Movement** **“Free 2b Me/Hampton Roads Youth Poets” Program**

Free 2B Me is a program developed and implemented by our teens.

#### **The Goal:**

To create a program that promotes free self-expression and promotes awareness and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. To create an environment that improves self-confidence and strengthens educational achievement. We promote critical thought and positive social dialogue across boundaries of age, race, class, gender, culture, and sexuality for teens. Our many community events are designed to enhance critical thinking skills, leadership, and to ignite a personal commitment to growth and learning which leads to heightened in school performance, less risky behaviors and greater interest in pursuing higher education.

#### **Objectives:**

- ☑ To connect with young people considered “at risk” for contracting HIV, dropping out, violence, and pregnancy in Hampton Roads by using published role model stories; open mics, edutainment forms, our annual teen forum and retreat; and our program called “Free 2b Me”.
- ☑ To consistently provide “Free 2b Me/HRYP” programs to at least 2,000 teens annually.
- ☑ To expand “Free 2b Me/HRYP” to reach more schools, churches, and community based organizations.
- ☑ To reach out to 8,000 teens by the end of 2010 by releasing a complete CD project based on the role model stories to be aired on the radio; digital downloads via the website and to mp3 players; to be heard at “Free 2b Me” events and distributed as free CD’s and leaflets and by continuing our Free 2b Me Programs throughout the community.
- ☑ Evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing risky behavior and increasing personal growth and changing negative social norms.



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### Teens With a Purpose – The Movement Free 2b Me Program cont'd...

#### Results:

- ☑ Over the past 12 years Teens With a Purpose has trained over 100 teens to be peer facilitators, 90% of the teens trained reduced risky behavior.
- ☑ Currently, 35 teens are participating in the Peer Facilitator program
- ☑ Based on surveys conducted, teen peer facilitators have reduced their risk for sexually transmitted diseases or are currently abstinent since joining TWP by 80%
- ☑ 85% of all teens who have attended TWP presentations over the years, who took pre and post tests, reported increased awareness.
- ☑ The average number of years members of Teens With a Purpose remain in the program as peer educators is 4.5 years (most of their adolescent years)

“Free 2b Me” programs have been hosted at several locations throughout the Hampton Roads community as well as been a part of some of the major events:

#### 2008 – Current

| <u>Location/Event</u>                  | <u>Estimated # of Attendee's</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|
| The Gallery at Military Circle         | 150                              |
| Af'ram Festival                        | 2,000                            |
| Norfolk Multicultural Teen Festival    | 1,000                            |
| Norfolk Recreation Centers (7)         | 700                              |
| Virginia Beach Central Library         | 80                               |
| Campostella Recreation Center          | 40                               |
| Berkley Community Center               | 40                               |
| Oscar Smith High – Friday Night Live   | 250                              |
| Old Dominion University                | 160                              |
| Virginia Commonwealth University       | 120                              |
| Booker T. Washington High School       | 260                              |
| Portsmouth Children's Museum           | 50                               |
| Berkley Community Reunion              | 200                              |
| Boys & Girl Club Free 2B Me            | 200                              |
| Norfolk State Univ. Volunteer Luncheon | 200                              |
| Lake Taylor High School                | 375                              |



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### **Choose Respect**

#### **The Goals:**

- Youth establish healthy relationship behaviors
- Friends, family and caring adults provide social support for healthy relationships among youth

#### **Objectives:**

- That youth recognize the characteristics of healthy relationships and those of unhealthy relationships.
- That youth recognize the signs of victimization and perpetrating of dating abuse.
- That youth believe that any kind of abuse (verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual) in a relationship is not acceptable.
- That youth and adults intervene to prevent, report , or stop dating abuse when suspected, reported or observed.

#### **Plan in Action:**

Teens With a Purpose is currently implementing Choose Respect events throughout Norfolk. Our pilot event held December 12<sup>th</sup> at Lake Taylor High School received media attention and was widely received and well attended. We followed this event with the official kick-off of 2010 Choose Respect Tour and have hosted two additional events thus far. Both were well attended. We will expand our services to include a series of five additional community wide events called: I AM HEAR (youth speak out). These events will incorporate (5) Choose Respect "plays" activities and also incorporate (5) Crossing the Line presentations for adults. Crossing the Line is initiative developed to help adults recognize and address statutory rape and other cohesive, abusive relationships teens may encounter. We utilize the youth poetry team as host and facilitators during these events.



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### Partnerships in the Community

#### Our Community Partners Include:

- ACCESS AIDS Care
- GEICO
- Norfolk Recreation Parks and Open Space
- Crispus Attucks Cultural Center
- Youth Speaks and Brave New Voices
- National Minority AIDS Coalition
- Second Chances Program KIP (Kids of Incarcerated Parents)
- Urban League of Hampton Roads
- Blyden Public Library
- Virginia Department of Health
- The AIDS Fund (T.A.C.T. Tidewater AIDS Community Taskforce)





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## **Teens With a Purpose – The Movement In The News**

- Al Roker Keynote speaker at Teens With a Purpose Event - Virginian Pilot December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- Breakfast with Al Roker and Teens With a Purpose - WAVY TV December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009
- New Journal and Guide articles November and December 2009 – Community Section
- TWP Interview on Norfolk Health Watch Local TV 48 November 2009
- TWP Interview on Norfolk Perspective Local TV 48 November 2009
- TWP Young and Inspired; Hampton Roads Magazine November 2009
- Hampton Roads Gazeti Magazine Cover Story November 2009
- Juvenile justice system examined at gathering (TWP Members win poetry competition at Youth Justice Jam) – Virginian Pilot July 25<sup>th</sup> 2009
- Norfolk Youth March to promote peace - Virginian Pilot May 31, 2009
- AIDS On The Rise: Hampton Roads Magazine November/December 2008 Feature Article
- Teens With a Purpose Takes on Tough Issued – Virginian Pilot December 2008

*(Full articles available online at [www.twpthemovement.org](http://www.twpthemovement.org))*





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### Quick Facts

#### **Teens With a Purpose – The Youth Movement**

Phone: (757) 503-3509

Fax: (757) 227-4137

Email: [twpthemovement@yahoo.com](mailto:twpthemovement@yahoo.com)

#### **Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 2658

Chesapeake, VA 23327

#### **Office Address:**

645 Church St. Suite 304

Norfolk, VA 23510

**Current # of members - 52**

#### **Board of Directors**

Deirdre A. Love – Founder & Executive Director

Karen Mantel – Chief Financial Officer

Al Roker – Director

Tanya Kearney – Director

Ivan Sanchez – Director

#### **Youth Advisory Board:**

Marcus Brown- Coordinator -Music

Jayne Peterson & Dakita Perry – Coordinators - Administration

Richard Love-Coordinator – Literary Expression

Anthony Holly- Coordinator – Programming