



June 6, 2007

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MEDIA ADVISORY from Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc.
and the Safe Journey Program - for **THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

**Safe Journey/Adolescent Parenting Program - Graduation
Thursday, June 7**

6:00 p.m.

(photo & interview opportunities with graduates - 5:15-6:00 pm)

**Covenant Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall
1000 E. Morehead St.**

WHO: Communities In Schools (CIS) and Safe Journey

CIS is the nation's leading community-based dropout prevention network, helping young people stay in school, successfully learn, and prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with schools. CIS of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., works with more than 2,100 students annually in 25 CMS schools. **Safe Journey and APP (Adolescent Parenting Program) are programs for teen mothers and their babies, helping the mothers to complete their high school education and providing them with counseling and educational/parenting resources.** Safe Journey is funded by Smart Start of Mecklenburg County and is a collaborative program of Communities In Schools, the Junior League of Charlotte, and The Family Center.

WHAT: Safe Journey/APP – High School Graduation

Twenty-eight (28) young women in the Safe Journey/APP program have successfully completed high school and the Safe Journey program requirements. They will be honored at this special Graduation program. The program is from 6:00 – 7:00, followed by a Reception from 7:00 – 8:00. Interviews with the Program Director, Judy Sanders-Bull and/or a graduating student, will be available between 5:15 and 6:00.

WHEN: Thursday, June 7 -- Program begins at 6:00 / Interview opportunities at 5:15

WHERE: Covenant Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall – 1000 E. Morehead St.

MORE INFO/ at the Event:

At the event, please ask for **Judy Sanders-Bull, Safe Journey/APP Program Director**, or **May Johnston, Community Relations Director with Communities In Schools**, if you are looking for a spokesperson and more information.

**Please see next page for Facts related to
Teen Pregnancy & Prevention**

GET THE FACTS: Teen Pregnancy and Prevention in North Carolina

- Every day in North Carolina, **51** teenagers become pregnant.¹
- A total (in N.C.) of **18,727** girls ages 10-19 became pregnant in 2005.¹
- Nearly 29% of the pregnancies to girls 19 and under were repeat pregnancies.¹
- In 2005, there were **2,849 pregnancies to North Carolina Latinas ages 15-19**. The Latina pregnancy rate was **175.7, compared to 61.7** for the age group as a whole.¹
- North Carolina has **9th highest** teen pregnancy rate in the U.S.²
- Teen pregnancy cost North Carolina **\$312 million** in 2004.³
- Sixty-three percent of N.C. high school seniors reported having sexual intercourse at least once.⁴

Nationally:

- In the United States, the teen pregnancy rate is more than nine times higher than that in the Netherlands, nearly four times higher than the rate in France, and nearly five times higher than that in Germany.⁵
- Only one-third of teen mothers receive a high school diploma.³

2005-06 Success Rates for Safe Journey & APP (Adolescent Parenting Program)

- **103 teen mothers and 90 children received services** (Safe Journey & APP combined)
- **91 participants remained active**, worked on program goals, were enrolled in a CMS high school or a high school equivalency program, or worked at least 15 hours a week.
- **In June 2007: 28 of 30 eligible seniors in the program graduated** from High School.
- **10 of the 26 seniors** who graduated from high school enrolled in college.

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¹N.C. Dept. of Health & Human Services – State Center for Health Statistics

²“U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity.” The Guttmacher Institute, Sept. 2006.

³National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

⁴2005 NC Youth Risk Behavior Survey

⁵Advocates for Youth