

30
YEARS

GREATER
BRIDGEPORT
ADOLESCENT
PREGNANCY
PROGRAM

Highlights from GBAPP's 30th Anniversary

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

In 30 years, GBAPP was the first in the area to launch many initiatives:

- School-Based Health Centers
- Teen Fathers Program
- Community Health Educators focused on human sexuality.
- Maternity Home in Fairfield & New Haven Counties
- Federal HIV Prevention initiative for Teens
- Faith-based HIV and substance abuse prevention
- Lead agency to coordinate city-wide Ryan White services for people living with HIV/AIDS

THREE DOCTORS IMPACT STUDENTS

On **October 29, 2010**, GBAPP marked its 30th Anniversary serving the Greater Bridgeport community by celebrating the thousands of youth, families and community members who have worked together to reduce teen pregnancy, reduce the spread of HIV, and who have advocated for a healthy community. The day-long celebration in Bridgeport was marked with special guests, Drs. Rameck Hunt, Sampson Davis, and George Jenkins, together known as the Three Doctors. Sponsored with contributions by dozens of GBAPP partners, the New Jersey natives held an afternoon assembly at Central High school as well as



Dr. Samson Davis at the podium, Drs. Jenkins and Hunt

keynote speakers at a dinner fundraiser. and presented their stories to a filled auditorium of 400 students from Central, Bassick and Harding High Schools, as well as Achievement First, Hamden Middle School and Waterbury Public Schools. The underlying theme to their stories—make a “pact” for education. It’s the one insurance policy you’ll never regret.”

SPEAKERS INSPIRE HUNDREDS



GBAPP's dinner fundraiser event was held at Holiday Inn Downtown Bridgeport on the evening of October 29th. The room was electric with 250 guests in attendance, and thanks to our generous sponsors, there were over 20% of the tickets held by students

by way scholarships. Special thanks to Mistress of Ceremonies, Gwen Edwards; heartfelt contributions by Rachel Guerrieri, teen mom and Giovanni Torres, teen father; Geraldine Johnson award winner Carmen Ayala; and our flagship sponsors,

People's United Bank, AT&T, Casey Family Services, Fairfield County Community Foundation, and Bridgeport Library. The steering committee and board of directors and all the staff and volunteers who made the event possible, THANK YOU!

Rachel, 18, is a resident of the MI CASA/My Home program along with her 11 month old son, Trevor. While at the MI CASA/My Home program, Rachel completed high school and is now enrolled at Housatonic Community College. Rachel plans on pursuing a career in Criminal Justice. She is also interested in talking to young people about the challenges of teen parenting as a means of prevention. Rachel plans on remaining with GBAPP services for educational and housing support and will be transitioning into the Independent Living program this December.



Giovanni, 17, is a senior at Central High School. In his words, "my goal is to become an electrician and one day I plan to own my own business, but most importantly is to be there for my son Julian. Having Julian was a blessing,



before that I was failing school then I met Mr. Sal and joined the teen fathers program where he taught me how important education is and to do well in school. I had to refocus myself to do well because of my child. Now I am a peer educator for the program and I have referred 2 of my friends in school to the program because I know how much of an impact it can have on them. I want to thank my friend Gary for referring me to the teen fathers program because without him I would have been lost; I want to thank GBAPP, Mr. Sal and Mr. Mosley for touching my life and my sons life, for teaching me how to become a good father and lastly I want to thank my girlfriend Nadine for being patient with me on changing those diapers.

**C A R M E N A Y A L A ,
G B A P P G E R A L D I N E W . J O H N S O N A W A R D W I N N E R**

GBAPP's foundation was built on dedicated individuals from the community who cared about the success of young people, thus GBAPP initiated the "Geraldine W. Johnson Award" to recognize the dynamic person who held the torch for addressing the issues of teen pregnancy in our community. Geraldine W. Johnson was instrumental as a change maker in Bridgeport. In the late 1970s, during her tenure as Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools, Ms. Johnson served as the Director of the Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, which was one of two tracts focused on issues of teen pregnancy (the Catholic tract was called the Catholic Coalition for Problem Pregnancies). Ms. Johnson believed in the philosophy of providing comprehensive sexuality education directly to young people to prevent teen births by advocating for expanded access to contraception. Further, she was a strong advocate for responsible parenthood and championed for the mental, physical, and spiritual growth of teen parent and child.

GBAPP's Inaugural award winner was Carmen Ayala, the Supervisor for the Board of Education's Parent Aide Program, a program that she has been working under for the past 19 years. She attributes the success of her program to the

dedication and compassion of her staff along with the strong commitment of collaboration with local agencies. She has focused her interest in pregnant and parenting adolescents and is dedicated to helping these youth become nurturing parents as well as helping them achieve their educational goals.

Ms. Ayala herself was a teen parent and has been committed to serving as a role model to the youth that she works with. She graduated from Harding High School as Salutatorian of the class of 1986 and began her employment with the City of Bridgeport as a work study student straight out of high school. Ms. Ayala obtained her BSW from Sacred Heart University and Masters in Social Work from Fordham University. She is a member of the Parent Aide Coalition of CT and has served as a co-chair for the East Side Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ). Ms. Ayala truly believes that each and every youth in this City of Bridgeport, regardless of their challenges, has the capacity to succeed and is committed to helping them achieve their dreams.



Carmen Ayala, Board Of Education Parent Aide Program, GBAPP Board Chair, Robyn Oliver, and GBAPP Executive Director, Rudy Feudo