

November-December 2009 Newsletter

Youth Hope Organization

By: Gabby Park, Judy Yeh, Melvin Chan

"Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Bishop Desmond Tutu

Family Thanksgiving Dinner

On the Friday Nov. 20th, YHO members showcased their eclectic, hidden cooking talents and made the heartwarming Family Thanksgiving Dinner possible for a couple of families in our community. There was a cornucopia of home-made dishes ranging from chicken casserole, special salad to Natalee's authentic Flan that captured the hearts and stomachs of both the kids and adults. In addition, our members helped prepare, carve and devour two traditional

turkeys with mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and delectable cornbread. Around the table and in between spoonfuls, everyone engaged in great conversations, made new friends in the community at all ages. Most of all, the families enjoyed themselves just as much as we did and went home on more-than-full stomachs! It was a truly memorable Thanksgiving Dinner and we are sure thankful for each and every YHO masterchefs and helpers!



Annual Board Election

The new board was announced at the beginning of December, marking a new YHO era. Congratulations to our new board for the upcoming year, that will be actively working with our board of advisors on exciting service projects, and moving YHO forward full throttle!

Co-Chair: Judy & Melvin

Treasurer: Jen Niece

External PR: Gabby

Internal PR: Ayesha

Upcoming Events

January 8-10, 2010: Winterfest Prep*

January 12, 2010: Winterfest

January 14, 2010: Mass Meeting

January 21, 2010: Ozone House*

January 27, 2010: Ozone House*

January 28, 2010: General Meeting

*Pending Approval

Issue at Glance: Child Parents

Great Britain has seen an increasing trend in the rate of young teenage mothers in the past few decades.



Stemming from what government authorities attribute to a growing rate of broken families and single-parent households, the number of young mothers with several children as well as the number of young adolescents having sexual intercourse has steadily increased. The case of Alfie Patten from February 2009 is a well-known

incident among Brits, having raised a media awareness and public outcry against young children having children. At the age of 12, Patten was said to have engaged in sexual intercourse with his then girlfriend, Maisie, age 14. When he became 13, Maisie discovered that she was pregnant and the two decided to keep the baby, rather than abort it. When asked what motivated that decision, Patten replied, "It seemed like a good idea to have the baby".

Upon the public release of this private affair, citizens across the United Kingdom and worldwide were appalled by such an event. However, this publicized awareness did lead to an inquiry about the current societal, familial trends of the UK and led to the restructuring of sexual health education in the United Kingdom, from which no educational institution, even religious ones, are exempt. These new sex educate policies require that students learn about body parts and the fact that animals

reproduce from the age of five; puberty and intercourse from the age of seven; and contraception and abortion from the age of eleven. Religiously affiliated schools will still have the option of teaching their own beliefs about sexual intercourse; however, they still must abide by the scientific and methodical process of teaching as laid out by the Ministry of Education.

Even in America, there is still a large number of pregnant teenage parents, although the number is said to have decreased in the past several years. However, many believe that most of these incidents are rooted in the education of students on the subject of sexual health, where many schools are still promoting abstinence as the sole means of managing sexual concerns. Unlike the United Kingdom, America has still to revise its policies on the education of public health.

For many countries worldwide, this topic of sexual health is one that continues to remain a point of contention and controversy, as personal beliefs and scientific facts collide in the realm of education. Yet, the persistence of this unresolved issue results in more problems for the entire community—one that utilizes public health resources as well as personally, psychologically, and emotionally affecting all involved parties. Though this concern of sexual health education is one that is extremely difficult to resolve and is far off from reaching that resolution, it is, for many countries, a concern that they are willing to manage and revise for the good of the public.