

# The Florence Crittenton School



The original TPEN  
(Teen Parent Education Network)  
Graduating Class, 1981

The Florence Crittenton School is the nucleus around which our holistic array of services evolves. In a unique collaboration with Denver Public Schools, it provides a high school education, career guidance and parenting training for pregnant and parenting teen mothers, giving them the tools to:

- stay in school
- graduate with a high school diploma
- give birth to healthy babies
- learn how to be nurturing mothers
- pursue post-secondary education
- acquire marketable job skills

The Denver Board of Education honored the Florence Crittenton School with a proclamation lauding its “outstanding performance.””

Teacher Tessa Rybkowski was designated a Mile High Teacher by the City and County of Denver.

## Flo Crit Student Body, 2009-10





## Opening of the Film “Precious”

Florence Crittenton students walked the red carpet at the premiere of the film “Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire,” at the 32nd Starz Denver Film Festival in November 2009, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. The movie tells the story of an abused teen mother who goes from despair to hope, echoing the lives of many of the young women we serve.

## Student Art Show

The Alpine Fine Art Center in the Santa Fe Arts District hosted an exhibit of art created by Florence Crittenton School students for two weeks in March. The gallery showcased students’ “Self Boxes,” created under the guidance of Art Therapist Beth Erlander, in an interpretive show entitled “From the Inside Out.” Gallery owner John Passaro donated two paintings for a silent auction and gave the agency 20% of the profit from sales that evening.



Students created life-sized paper dolls to represent their children and brought them to the State Capitol as part of the Colorado Children’s Campaign’s “Doll Day,” an advocacy activity geared toward illuminating lawmakers.



Counselor Aimee Wright accompanied a group of students to the Colorado State Capitol to tell their legislators about the importance of adolescent sexual health and support for young families. The field trip was part of Youth Action Day, sponsored by the Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention.

Alumna Marsha Ortega and other professionals, including a couple of board members, shared insight at the Career Fair

