



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florence Crittenton School Launches 2010-11 School Year

Celebrating Cycles of Success for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

DENVER, Colorado - Aug. 19, 2010 –

About 120 pregnant and parenting teens from the Denver metro area enter the Florence Crittenton School on Friday morning, launching a school year focused on celebrating cycles of success for our students and their young families. The school, located at 96 S. Zuni Street in Denver, expects to reach its 200-student capacity by the end of September.

More than 1,000 Denver county teens become pregnant each year, and more than half of them drop out of high school. This often launches a cycle of failure, because female high school dropouts earn 41% less than a high school graduates and are 40% more likely to rely on public assistance. Over a lifetime, a high school dropout costs society \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity, and their children are up to 33% less likely to graduate from high school.

The Florence Crittenton School, operated by the nonprofit Parent Pathways in a unique partnership with Denver Public Schools, strives to create cycles of success for teen mothers and their children by offering wraparound services for the entire teen family. And it works! Consider:

- An average of 86% of the school's eligible seniors graduated over the past three academic years.
- Of the 20 young women who graduated in 2010, 90% had post-secondary or career plans.
- 100% of the 70 babies and toddlers enrolled in the Early Learning Center for at least six months met or exceeded their developmental milestones and received all of their basic immunizations.
- 118 young men received parenting skills, education, and relationship and job readiness services.

Parent Pathways/Florence Crittenton has done considerable reorganizing over the summer, creating a **Family Engagement Center** that offers a comprehensive array of integrated services to educate young fathers in the responsibilities and joys of fatherhood, and to help family members learn how to best support the young mother.

"So much has been accomplished since last spring!" says **President and CEO Susan Carparelli**. "We have developed and implemented new systems and programs in order to better support the success of our students and their families. All of these efforts help to establish a strong foundation and I am so excited by the opportunities that lay ahead of us. "

The Early Learning Center, a licensed, Qualistar-rated on-site early childhood education facility for the babies of teen mothers attending the school, also makes it easier to stay in school and prevent a myriad of developmental and societal problems. Professionals teach young moms how to care for their children and promote their health and development, and babies receive regular checkups and all their immunizations.

More

Other activities going on Friday include:

School Supply Drive: Volunteers from the Janus Fund will hand out backpacks filled with school supplies -- including notebooks, calculators, scissors, pens, protractors, art journals and many other items. Companies that contributed school supplies include [Janus](#), [COPIC Insurance](#), [WOW Communications](#), [Zachry Engineering](#), [DirectTV](#) and a number of individuals.

Baby Bucks Store: The "Baby Bucks Store" at Parent Pathways, maintained by volunteers and the [Zonta Club of Denver II](#), will be open to provide students with the opportunity to purchase diapers, clothes, toys and baby supplies for their children. Students who demonstrate good attendance, behavior and/or grades can earn award certificates throughout the school year to use as "cash" at the store. Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women.

Celebrations will continue with the Parent Pathways/Florence Crittenton Annual Luncheon on Oct. 12, 2010, which will feature **Linda Armstrong Kelly**, mother of 7-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong, who was herself a teen mom. Learn more at www.parentpathways.org.

About Parent Pathways

Parent Pathways is a Denver-based non-profit that empowers struggling teen families to be productive members of the community. Using a holistic and proven approach, Parent Pathways offers a spectrum of wraparound services for the entire teen family, including education, health/wellness services, career guidance and parenting training for pregnant and parenting teen mothers at the [Florence Crittenton School](#); early childhood education for their infants and toddlers at the Qualistar-rated [Early Learning Center](#); and counseling, education and parenting support for teen fathers and family members through the [Family Engagement Center](#).

Learn more about the agency at www.parentpathways.org.

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