

A Community Determined to Reduce Teen Pregnancy!!!

Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. along with our members, and allies have helped to start a process to reduce teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in Tunica County, MS.

The only 100% - best way to reduce teen pregnancy, STDs & STIs, HIV, and AIDS is to practice ABSTINENCE at “ALL” times; however, when you fall short of this goal you must get the medical facts to protect yourself. Tunica Teens In Action promotes abstinence and character building for self-empowerment along with self-education to make our community a healthier place for everyone.

- **When in doubt, get the facts!!!** <http://factnotfiction.com/>
- **Tunica Teens In Action's** Education and Youth Director, Marilyn L. Young, was instrumental in getting the Abstinence and Abstinence Plus Program into Tunica County, MS. As a member of the Tunica County School Board, Mrs. Young and Dr. Debra Dace (Tunica County School District Rep), met in Jackson, MS with Mississippi First and the Mississippi Department of Education to discuss the importance of research driven medically accurate information to help our local students and parents. Because of TTIA support with the local school district, Tunica County School District became one of the 1st School Districts to adopt and implement the programs. This was a very important move since the data supports that our youth are engaged in very high risk sexual behavior. http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/6239.pdf {Go to page 29 of this report}.
- **Tunica Teens In Action** continues to host two (2) annual countywide health fairs to educate parents, young women, young men, and the community to help make our community healthy. One of the main focus areas is reducing teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and infections. www.tunicateensinaction.com
- **Tunica Teens In Action** is a Community Based Organization that is an official certified BART - Becoming A Responsible Teen training organization. BART is promoted by the Mississippi State Department of Health program that uses medically accurate information from the CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART) is a group-level, education and behavior skills training intervention designed to reduce risky sexual behaviors and improve safer sex skills among African American adolescents. The 8 intervention sessions, delivered to groups of 5-15 youth, provide information on HIV and related risk behaviors and the importance of abstinence and risk reduction. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/compendium/rr/bart.html>

By *Community Organizer*
December 1, 2015