

Journeys

TOPS Teenagers, Path to Successful Parenting



Winter 2012

Teen Mom Turns Beauty Queen



Gretchen has been nationally recognized as “America's Outstanding Mom.”

Gretchen Emerson Pope was crowned “America's Outstanding Mom” in New York in 2011.

Gretchen's story is a story of triumph and perseverance. Her story of single parenthood, sacrifice, humor, and a journey towards becoming

“America's Outstanding Mom” is an inspiration for young women everywhere who find themselves balancing motherhood and a future for themselves and their baby. “When I became pregnant at 16 the last thing I EVER thought is that one day I would be in a beauty pageant. Teen mom and beauty pageants don't

seem to go together.”, said Gretchen of her recent crowning. Gretchen chose Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services as her organization of choice to work with in Arizona. “People don't think highly of teen moms and its a hard job, I think harder than usual because people kind of look down at you. Being a teen mom doesn't mean you can't be an Outstanding Mom.”

“teen mom and beauty pageants don't seem to go together.”

Teen mothers face social criticisms, preconceived notions, physical change, and financial difficulties, while sacrificing and balancing their teenage years with a newborn baby. At age 16, Gretchen Emerson Pope of Phoenix, AZ fought these battles while raising her first daughter. Twenty-seven years later

Inside this issue:

Director's Notes	2
Precious Gift	2
Queen Creek Success Story	2
Circle of Giving	3
Teen Focus-Brandon, Hannah & Melody	3
Honor Your Mom	4

Holiday Party Brings Smiles & Coos of Delight

This year at our local holiday parties we served 360 guests, which includes a teen and their guest. We were able to give out 344 infant or toddler books and provided 224 new gifts that included strollers, breast pumps, nursing pillows,

infant carriers, toys and clothing for our TOPS Babies. A special thanks to the generous communities we serve that through their donations make our parties a success.



TOPS baby with Santa

2012 Board Members:

DeeAnn Arroyo, President
Dr. Janel Lloyd, Treasurer
Dr. Jaime Ledesma
Cindy Robertson
Jason Benedict
Tea Honkanen

Director's Notes

At Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services we are starting out the New Year with a new look. After 11 years with our old logo we have decided with the guidance of Baron Designs, on a fresh more updated logo. Our new logo is an abstract design of a pregnant girl with her hand extended overhead

to signify empowerment and victory through a difficult situation with the help of TOPS.

We are working on many new things this New Year, expanding our Board of Directors, the TOPS Scholars Pilot Program which is an incentive/scholarship program to keep teens focused on

their future by completing their educational goals, and hopefully a technology upgrade that will allow us to serve our teens more efficiently.



Laura Pedersen



TOPS Teen Gives Precious Gift

“a lovely baby boy swaddled in a Christmas stocking.”

TOPS had a teen enroll earlier this year, who chose a family to raise her baby through an adoption plan. The teen grew close to both her case manager and nurse educator team, and invited them to be part of the process from the beginning, through to the adoption party.

The healthy baby was born just before Christmas, and the adoption party was held on December 23rd, 2011. The adoptive family was presented with a lovely baby boy swaddled in a Christmas stocking.

Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services does an excellent

job of supporting pregnant teens whether they decide to parent or provide an adoptive family with a very special gift.

Queen Creek Success Story

Melissa is a 19 year old young lady who was living with her mother in Nevada when she found out she was pregnant. Her mother kicked her out and told her that her life was over now that she was pregnant. Melissa moved to Arizona on her own because she had some friends here.

She enrolled in school and found a job working at McDonalds. She had since found herself without a place to live and was basically homeless. She is living on her own now at The House of Refuge. She will be finished with her medical assistant certification in March 2012. After that she will enroll at

ASU to start her journey towards becoming an RN.

She gave birth to a healthy baby girl on December 14. Her support system consists of a handful of friends, and her TOPS RN and CM. She is exclusively breastfeeding and returned to work and school in January. Melissa is a very driven girl who is

confident and sure of what she wants for her and her child's future. She makes sure she has what she needs and is extremely resourceful.



Melissa & Alexandra

2011 TOPS Circle of Giving

Legacy Leaders

Grants/Gifts \$10,000+

First Things First

HHS/Family & Youth

Services Bureau

March of Dimes

Stone Canyon Foundation

TOPS Visionaries

Gifts 5,000+

Scottsdale Insurance

TOPS Team

Gifts \$1,000+

Carl & Mabel E. Shurtz

Foundation

Phoenix Suns

Nicole Baron Designs

Mercy Care Health Plan

Wal-Mart of Peoria

TOPS Friends

Gifts \$500+

Desert Diamond

Dr. Janel Lloyd

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hursh

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wilson

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Valley West Credit Union

Nest Builders

Gifts \$100+

Bethany Presbyterian

Kanina McDonald

Jennifer Wortman

K12

Henry Sutter

Bobbie Wilson

QT

St. Joseph's Hospital R.N.'s

Nest Builders

Gifts \$100+

Kanina McDonald

Henry Sutter

Bobbie Wilson

Holder Foundation

VASA Order of America

TOPS Volunteers

100+ Hours

Brenda Holden

Bob Conway

Johanna Teske

ACT

Tom & Dorothy Gerhard

Richard Pedersen

Carla Zachmeier

Roberta Schadl

2011 Holiday Party Donors

Revolution Church

New Hope Community Church

Banner Ironwood Obstetrics

Basha's Store 100

The Birthday Group

David Pedersen

Greg Lussky & Jeane Wilcoxson

Bob "Bear" Conway

DeeAnn Arroyo

United Health Care

Valerie Pedersen

Paula & Ashley Jefferies

Jessica Caramella

Safeway

Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn

Sonja McLaughlin

Stacy Enriquez

Kendra Riley

Sam's Club Gilbert

Starbuck's

Target

TEEN FOCUS...

Hannah, Brandon & baby Melody

Christmas came early for Hannah and Brandon this year when they delivered a healthy baby girl on Dec. 7th. Hannah is a Case Managers (CM) dream client, she showed up to every class, asked questions and was genuinely concerned about doing everything possible to ensure having a healthy.

On Dec. 5th Hannah called her CM thinking her water broke, The CM advised her to call her nurse educator for advice. After meeting with her Doctor the next day she was checked out fine.

On December 7th the CM received a text from Hannah that said she had believed her labor was progressing but she was at school and wasn't quite sure what to do. Based on her symptoms and the gestation of her pregnancy the CM told her to get to the hospital. Hannah wasn't sure if she should because she didn't want to get sent home and wanted to wait a little longer. She told the CM she hadn't really felt the baby move much since 8 p.m. the previous night. The CM's heart sank when Hannah

said this and the CM told her she was now 100% sure that she needed to get to the hospital. Hannah assured the CM she would go. A little while later the CM sent a text asking what the progress was and 30 minutes later she received a phone call from Brandon. He stated that the baby had just been born via emergency C-section. Mom and baby were okay but had Hannah not gotten to the hospital when she did, both of them would have been lost because her

placenta had separated from her uterus.

Congratulations Hannah & Brandon on the birth of your daughter Melody.

Also a special pat on the back to Monica, Hannah's Case Manager, who made a huge difference in ensuring a healthy outcome for baby Melody!



Providing Education & Support to Pregnant Teens and Teen Parents since 2000

Locations:

3024 E Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ 85716

931 E Southern Ave, Suite 1, Mesa, AZ 85204

10875 N. 85th Ave., Suite 3, Peoria, AZ 85345

8182 Florentine Road, Suite C, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Phone: 877.882.2881
E-mail: info@topsaz.org



Honor your Mom, while helping a teen mom!

This year for Mother's Day do something truly special in honor of your own mother.

By making a donation in honor or in memory of your mother or another special woman in your life, you can help a young mother as she makes the difference in her child's life. Donations will go directly to our TOPS Scholars program that will provide direct incentives for young women who are balancing being a new mother while either finishing high school or working on a college degree. Honor a special woman in

your life who made a difference, you can recognize your mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, or friend.

Honorees will be mentioned in the May newsletter and a letter recognizing your donation will be sent to the honoree letting them know that you appreciate them, and are making a difference in a young woman's life this Mother's Day.

For more information contact Debbie Allen, Development Director Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services Debbie.allen@topsaz.org

I want to Celebrate my Mom this Mother's Day!

Mother's Name: _____

_____ in Honor of

_____ in Memory of

I also want to recognize: _____

_____ in Honor of

_____ in Memory of

Enclosed is \$15 for each honoree

Enclosed is my additional donation to make a difference _____

Please send my Mother's Day acknowledgement to : Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My address is _____