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NEWS

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*****Thirty-three area groups band together to spotlight problems of teen-age pregnancy.

DALLAS--A coalition of 33 Dallas area agencies, organizations and programs are banding together to plan a special month spotlighting the problems of teen-age pregnancy. March 1983 has been designated the month for "Cherish the Children: Facing the Problems of Teen-age Pregnancy in Dallas."

In order to reach as many people in the area as possible, a speakers bureau has been organized. An outstanding group of volunteers will be available for presentations to PTAs, student groups, churches and civic and social clubs.

Problems resulting from inappropriate adolescent pregnancies may range from loss of educational opportunities for the mother to severe health problems for many of their premature infants and even child abuse. Not only are there often severe losses to the mother and child, but also the community as a whole is affected by this problem. Currently Texas has a 28 percent higher pregnancy rate in the 15-19 age group than any other state.

Organizations in the coalition include the following: Camp Fire, Children's Medical Center, Children and Youth Project (The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas), C.V. Roman Medical Auxiliary, Dallas (city) Health Department, Dallas Housing Authority, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas Urban League and Edna Gladney Home.

Also Educational Cable Consortium, Family Outreach, Girls' Club of Dallas, Hope Cottage, Irving Independent School District, Juliette Fowler Homes, Life Planning/Health Services, March of Dimes, March of Dimes Auxiliary and Maternal Health and Family Planning Clinics (UTHSCD).

Also National Council of Jewish Women, Pastoral Counseling and Education Center, Quality of Life Services, Parent and Family Education (Richardson Council of PTAs), Richardson Independent School District, Junior League of Dallas, Junior League of Richardson, SMU Human Resource/Women's Center, Texas Department of Human Resources, University Affiliated Center (UTHSCD), Warner Amex Cable Company, Women's Council of Dallas, the YWCA and the YWCA School Age Mothers' Program.

Co-chairmen for the coalition are Barbara Meircort and Patti Jent. Chairman of the co-sponsor's committee, made up of endorsing individuals and groups is Jethro Pugh. Medical consultants are Dr. Drew Alexander, clinical assistant professor of Pediatrics and adolescent medicine specialist, UTHSCD, and Dr. Norman Gant, professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UTHSCD.

For information about the speakers bureau call Kaye Spencer at (214) 688-2938.

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