

Connection

Our Mission To serve the community through education on the realities and responsibilities of teenage pregnancy and through long-term assistance to adolescent parents for their development of self-esteem, parenting skills, and empowerment towards self-sufficiency.

parenting · prevention · empowerment



475 Taft Avenue · Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 630-790-8433 **www.teenparentconnection.org**





of Metro Chicago



skills, and empowerment towards self-sufficiency.

What you make possible...



parenting · prevention · empowerment

Your support makes our work possible – creating a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment where every child, adolescent, and young adult can thrive.

Journey to Parenthood: A Story of Hope, Learning, and Support

Travis and Jackie were surprised when they learned they were pregnant. The young couple felt overwhelmed and worried that they didn't know how to best prepare for the journey ahead of them.

Their path took a hopeful turn when Jackie learned about Teen Parent Connection (TPC) during a visit to the health department. Intrigued, they reached out immediately to learn more.

One of the first programs Travis and Jackie enrolled in was TPC's Childbirth Education (CBE) classes. The parents-to-be learned so much about staying healthy during pregnancy, preparing for labor and delivery, and how to care for their newborn. Jackie was especially interested in the information about the importance of good nutrition during pregnancy, and how vital it is for a baby's health.

For young father-to-be Travis, the Childbirth Education classes helped him feel more confident in knowing how to best support Jackie during labor and postpartum. "It answered a lot of questions without us even having to ask them because it was all covered in the class. It definitely was an amazing experience."

For Jackie and Travis, having the support and guidance of a TPC doula was critical. When they first met their doula, Rachel, the couple was a little shy. But they soon formed a tight bond with her, and Rachel became an integral part of their pregnancy and newborn journey. Rachel's support provided comfort to Jackie during stressful times. "Having somebody to contact during pregnancy, when you experience different symptoms and have anxiety, is really helpful. Having Rachel helped to ease my mind."

Baby MJ was born six weeks ago, healthy and strong. In addition to continuing to meet with Rachel postpartum, Travis has also been meeting with TPC's Dads Engagement Coordinator, Pat. "Pat is awesome. He always asks how I'm doing and is very helpful when I'm going through my own anxieties about being a new dad and how to support a family."

The couple say that Teen Parent Connection's programs – especially its non-judgmental support and inclusivity of young fathers – have played a crucial role in their path to parenthood. "I just feel like it's an amazing program, especially for first time parents. I know it was definitely a big help for us and I know probably a lot of people feel the same".





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