



Girls Club of Los Angeles Teens Rally for a Healthy Future At Washington High School

Los Angeles, California –*Girls Club of Los Angeles (GCLA)* is proud to be sponsoring the first annual “**Healthy Mind Body and Soul**” Teen Rally at George Washington High School. The event will take place November 30th, 2005, from 8:30am-12:00pm in the school’s Pier Hall at 10860 Denker Avenue, Los Angeles.

The goal of the rally is to offer the 2,000, 9th grade Washington High School students an opportunity to receive information on responsible parenting, pregnancy prevention, healthy lifestyles, college information, and opportunities for summer jobs. In addition, students will learn about the various organizations offering services in their communities. Students will have the opportunity to visit the tables, receive prizes, and enjoy local entertainment.

“There are still more than **53,000** births to teens each year and 15-19 year olds have the highest rates of Chlamydia, followed by 20-24 year olds,” said **Gloria J. Davis, Executive Director of GCLA**. “We know this is a real problem and that teen pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases/infections among teens are serious issues for today’s youth. We are excited about this opportunity to promote positive, healthy lifestyles and encourage responsible decision making at Washington.”

Through the efforts of agencies like **GCLA**, California teen birth rates in 1990 were reduced by 30 percent by 2001. The reduction can be largely attributed to California’s proactive approach to teen pregnancy prevention. **GCLA**, along with agencies throughout the State of California have reached more than 300,000 youth and their families with information and opportunities to participate in activities that raise awareness about the need to reduce teen pregnancy, encourage responsible parenting and promote youth development.

This event is sponsored under **GCLA’s Project LEAD (Leaders in Enrichment of Adolescent Development)** – a youth development initiative funded by the **California Family Health Council**. **Project LEAD** offers an in class series of **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** workshops that focus on human development, contraceptive use, relationships, decision-making skills, communication, goal setting, and other topics pertinent to youth. **Project LEAD** also offers an after-school **Service Learning Club** where youth learn about and gain the opportunity to volunteer in the community.

According to Project Educator, Jocelyn Nichols, “**Project LEAD** brings awareness to teens about sexual issues, makes them more comfortable to express their concerns and makes them more capable to access resources. Every year we see youth better prepared to make healthy decisions.”

GCLA is a non-profit agency that focuses on the needs of underprivileged and at-risk youth between the ages 2 and 21 years old. ***The GCLA mission is to enrich the lives of children, youth, and families in a personalized high quality learning environment that contributes to self-sufficient, stable and productive lives.***