



TMC

Teen Mother
CHOICES

INTERNATIONAL



A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Since 1989, **Teen Mother Choices** (TMC) Programs have offered Hope, Purpose, and a Future® to teen moms between the ages of 13-23 years who have chosen to parent their child. From its inception, the TMC Program has offered the same cornerstone services; Mentors, LifeSkills Workshops, Setting Goals, and Incentive Programs.

In 2007, after responding to multiple requests to teach other Christ-followers to execute the TMC Program, Teen Mother Choices International (TMC International) was created. The mission of TMC International is to train and equip individuals, in partnership with a local church or existing ministry, to implement and manage the TMC Program in their community.

Those involved in TMC International and TMC Programs believe hope is found in Jesus Christ alone, and He is the foundation of these ministries. The purpose of this Informational Brochure is to answer frequently asked questions about the TMC Program and demonstrate its influence on teen moms and others within the community.

We consider it a privilege to work closely with churches and other organizations interested in demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to teen moms. When God's people work together to bring the hope of Jesus to teen moms, we are answering God's call to love and serve those in need.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve with you,

Christa March

Founder and CEO of
Teen Mother Choices International, Inc



"My heart's desire is to see a TMC program in every city in this country. We are trusting God to raise up churches willing to live out the Gospel and once again be at the forefront of transformation in our communities!"



Bringing **Hope** Into View • Discovering **Purpose** • Changing the **Future**

focusing on all aspects of a teen mom's life

In the TMC Program, we believe every teen mom is created in the image of God with immeasurable value and worth. We strive to help teen moms discover their unique gifts and talents to benefit their future and community.

While the responsibility of being a mother can be demanding, the TMC moms are encouraged to expand their focus to include their roles as student, employee, teenager, and seeker. While participating in the TMC Program, teen moms are encouraged to create goals that focus on every aspect of her life.



empowering TMC moms to:

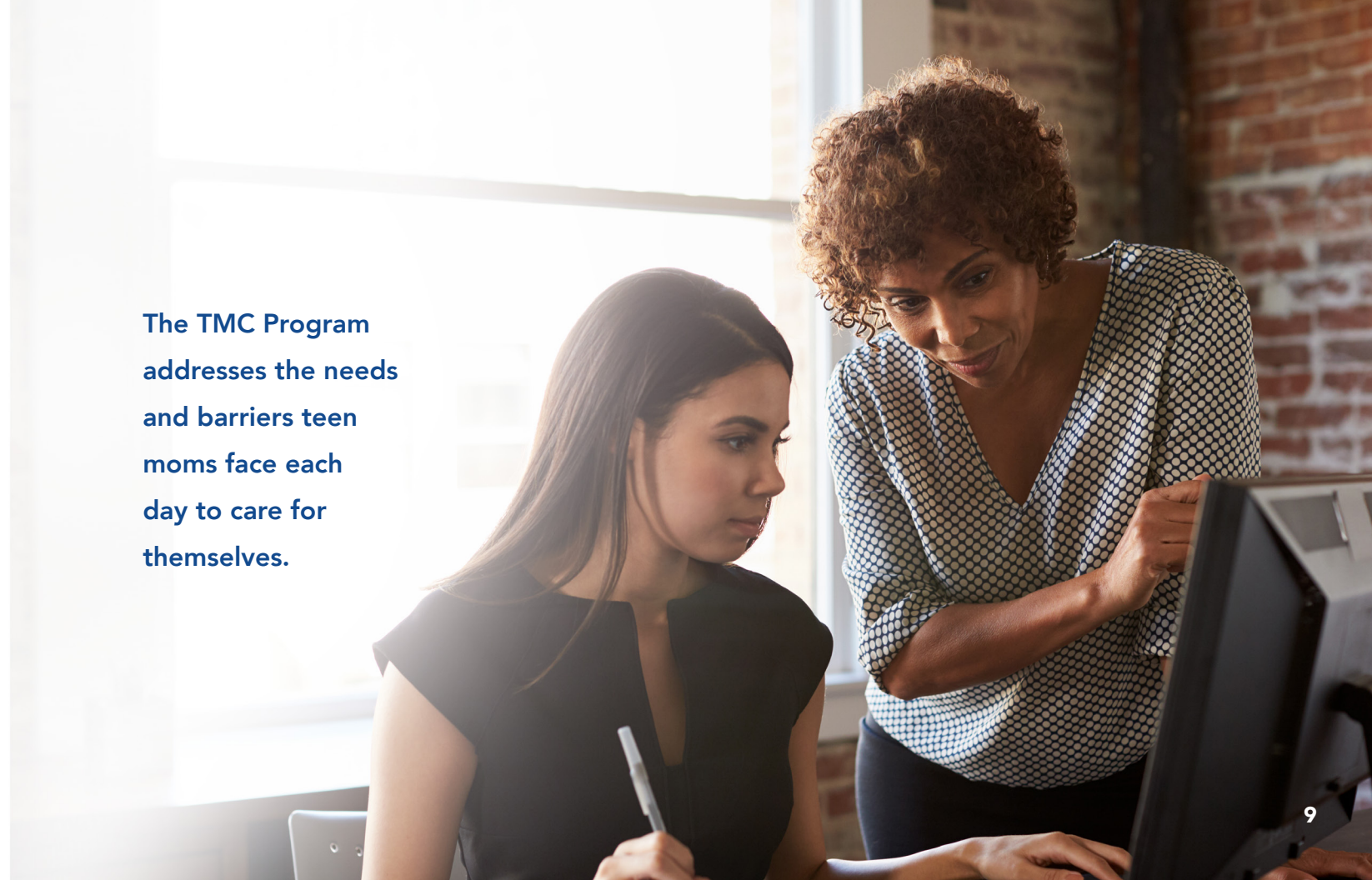
- Set goals to benefit her future
- Address challenges with the support and encouragement of her mentor and Program Director
- Seek opportunities to grow as a mother, student, employee, and teenager.
- Choose healthy boundaries and relationships

the TMC program purpose

Our purpose is to practically assist teen moms in overcoming obstacles that hinder them from becoming independent. Through building a relationship, TMC volunteers and staff will also be sharing God's love and point to how Jesus is the reason for this ministry.

We desire that the love of Jesus will transform her life with new hope, purpose, and a bright future.

**The TMC Program
addresses the needs
and barriers teen
moms face each
day to care for
themselves.**



THE TMC PROGRAM

ONE-TO-ONE MENTOR

The one-to-one mentor relationship is the heart-beat of the TMC Program. TMC mentors are role models who nurture, guide, encourage, and celebrate with their teen moms. Long-lasting bonds are formed between the teen mom and her mentor as their relationship develops over time.



LIFESKILLS WORKSHOPS

LifeSkills Workshops provide hands-on training by skilled volunteers and are tailored to meet the specific developmental needs of the TMC moms within each program. Each workshop trains and equips teen moms with the life-long skills needed to become loving, responsible parents and independent functioning adults.

GOAL SETTING

Goal setting equips each TMC mom to target goals in 4 major life areas: physical, financial, educational/career, and personal. TMC moms and mentors meet weekly to track goals, assess progress and determine the next course of action.



INCENTIVE SERVICE

The Incentive Service provides needed resources that help TMC moms finish high school and meet their goals. Incentive resources remove barriers and motivate young moms to press on through the formidable challenges of teen parenting.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

The TMC Program relies heavily on volunteer support, which primarily comes from the local church. From mentoring, LifeSkills Workshops speakers, and meal providers, many people lovingly and sacrificially give their time and talents to invest in TMC moms.

TEEN MOM STORIES

KESHIA



"It was because of the kindness and love I received through TMC and the fact that someone believed in me that my whole life was changed."

Keshia was a teen mom with nowhere to go, no money, and no options. Not knowing where to turn, she became TMC's first teen mom in 1989. TMC came alongside Keshia, offering her help to survive and hope for the future. Today she is a wife and proud mother.

Andrea, Keshia's daughter, is now 30 years old and a registered nurse. According to Andrea, "I would not be alive today if it were not for TMC! I owe my life to TMC and all they gave to my mom and me."

SANDY



"I would have never made it through high school let alone training for a great career! I am so grateful to the TMC people who helped me when I couldn't help myself."

Sandy was 13 years old when she found out she was pregnant. Fearful and without hope, she ran away from home and lived with friends until a social worker connected her to a TMC program. Sandy found people who loved, encouraged, and supported her through graduation and medical technician training. She is now working full-time in a medical clinic supporting and caring for her son, Joshua.

JADA



"I didn't know anything about goal setting and how that could change my life. I set goals I never thought I would reach, but with the help of my TMC mentor, I was able to go so much further!"

Jada was forced to drop out of high school at age 16 because she could not afford to take care of her son and pay for a weekly bus pass to school. Her story was forever changed when she entered her first TMC program. TMC covered her transportation expenses, enabling her to stay in school. Her dedicated mentor helped her achieve the impossible...graduating with a GPA of 3.4! Jada is now a student at NIU with a full scholarship and a bright future.

TAYLOR



"TMC has enabled me to do what I love and have a life and family that gives me so much joy. None of this would have been possible without TMC."

Taylor was 14 years old with a 3-month old baby when she joined TMC. With love and support, TMC supported her for five years, enabling her to graduate from high school and cosmetology school. Even when she began working full time, TMC was there to help ensure she could stand independently. Today, she is married with two more children and working in the job she loves. Her daughter has also graduated from high school and now works as a medical assistant. Her 2nd daughter attends a state university, and her son is a high school freshman and football star.

STATISTICS

THE REALITY

Often, when a teen mom chooses to parent her child, continuing her education and planning for the future are pushed to the back of her mind. Her new focus becomes providing for her needs and the needs of her child.

209,809

TEEN MOMS

Will give birth and choose to parent their children in the US this year.

\$16,000

SPENT

By government agencies for every household headed up by a teen mom during her child's first year of life.

WITHOUT GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

60% of teen moms will not graduate from high school

98% of teen moms will not go to college

68% of teen moms will stay on public aid and will not become financially independent

WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM TMC

98% of TMC moms graduate from high school

96% of TMC moms go on to college or job-skills training

85% of TMC moms become independent adults and pay their rent or purchase a home.

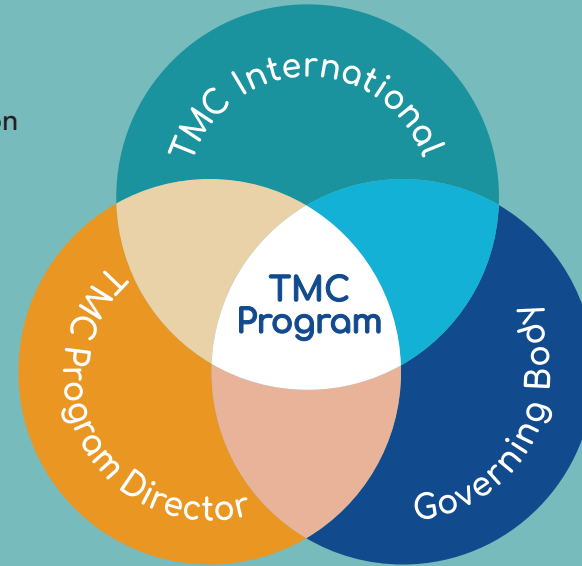
THE TMC STRUCTURE

All TMC Programs are:

- Licensed by TMC International
- Overseen by a local sponsoring church or Christian organization
- Funded independently through charitable donations
- Led by a fully trained Program Director
- Receiving ongoing training, support, and coaching from the administrative leadership at TMC International.
- Serving up to 7 teen moms at one time
- Assisting teen moms ranging in age from 13 through 23
- Available to continue to work with a teen mom while she pursues her goals and actively participates in the TMC Program

Extending the love of Jesus

The heart of the TMC Program is rooted in our love for Jesus and our desire to communicate His love in all our relationships.



TMC Program:

Serves teen moms

Provides one-on-one mentors, goal setting, LifeSkills Workshops, and incentives

Demonstrates Christ's love by assisting teen moms to become independent

TMC International:

Owner, creator, and licensing body of the TMC Program

Responsible for the training, equipping, coaching, and consistency of the TMC Program

Maintains working relationship with Program Director and local governing body

Program Director:

Executes the TMC Program in her community

Meets bi-weekly with her TMC International Training Coach

Reports regularly to her governing body on the program's progress and needs

Oversees all mentors, volunteers, and LifeSkills Workshop

Connects with donors and community members

Works closely with the governing body on finances and fundraising

Governing Body (Church Leadership or Board of Directors of an existing ministry):

Holds the TMC License for the local TMC Program

Serves as the tax-exempt entity for TMC Program donations

Helps create and manage the TMC Program budget

Oversees financial decisions for the TMC Program

Provides accountability and guidance to the Program Director



a TMC program offers:

A TEEN MOM

A safe and welcoming community

A life-giving weekly program

Consistent, nurturing relationships

A trusted mentor, guide, and friend

LifeSkills Workshops

Goal Setting Framework

Financial Management

Job Skills Training

A New Future

A CHURCH

A tangible way to enter into the joy of seeing lives transformed

The opportunity to change the future for two or more generations

The rewards of doing justice, loving mercy, and serving humbly

The chance to participate in the blessing of Kingdom-building work

A COMMUNITY

Fewer teen moms who will depend on government assistance programs

Fewer teen moms who have repeat teen births

More teen moms who will finish and graduate from high school

More teen moms who will go on to higher education and job training programs

More teen moms who will become independent, contributing members of their communities

a TMC director's story

**LYN
WEIDNER**

*Program Director
since 2018*



*"I'm not doing
ministry alone, and
I have an organization
behind me."*

After completing my Teen Mother Choices (TMC) Program training, my bi-weekly meetings with my Training Coach began. We discuss the program's status, any questions I have, and prayer requests during these calls. Every call ends with prayer. Knowing I partner with a team that is praying for me gives me hope. I also have opportunities to interact with other TMC Program Directors and learn from their experiences.

Beyond the training and ongoing support, Teen Mother Choices International's Board of Directors has provided practical support to teen moms in our program during the COVID-19 Pandemic. They also offer a scholarship to teen moms who are continuing their education after high school.

When asked why I continue working with TMC International instead of starting my own program to teen moms, I stated, "Because I have a coach." The ongoing relationship reminds me that I'm not doing ministry alone, and I have an organization behind me.





you can help change the future

**By offering hope and practical resources to a teen mom,
you assist in changing the outlook of her and her child's future.**

WILL YOU HELP?

- Attend an informational meeting and learn how your church/community can start helping teen moms
- Learn more about starting a TMC program in your church/community
- Give to TMC International make it possible to equip, train, and start up many more TMC Programs
- Encourage your church to financially support and volunteer with an existing TMC program in your community

**Please contact us or visit our website!
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TEEN MOTHER CHOICES INTERNATIONAL

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