



May 29, 2015

Dear Friends,

In 1995, the same year Olympic gold medal diver Greg Louganis disclosed that he was HIV-positive, we convened a summit for 500 student leaders to learn HIV prevention strategies to take back to their peers. Inspired by the event's success, we began collaborating with our summit partners, the NJ Department of Health and HiTOPS, Inc., to develop what is now the [Teen Prevention Education Program \(Teen PEP\)](#), a school-based sexual health promotion and peer education program, currently active in high schools across New Jersey and North Carolina. Perhaps the best way to learn about Teen PEP is to watch this three-minute [video](#) created by Teen PEP students in New Jersey's Franklin High School. We're excited to see where Teen PEP goes over the next 20 years. For now, we're pleased to give you a brief snapshot of Teen PEP today:

20th annual Teen PEP Day of Learning. Nearly 200 students from across New Jersey gathered on May 19, 2015 to learn peer education strategies for increasing responsible decision-making among students around issues of sexual health. Thanks to all of our participants for an amazing 20th anniversary!

NC students host Real Talk Event. "This is not a white problem; this is not a black problem; this is not a Hispanic problem. This is a Cumberland County problem," said Shirley Johnson, the director of health services for Cumberland County Schools. [Read more...](#)

Teen PEP launches in South Plainfield, NJ. Tammy Zurka, the high school's girl's lacrosse coach and physical education teacher states, "It is exciting to see the light bulbs go off in the students' heads when they feel comfortable asking a knowledgeable question without judgment. Teen PEP gives freshmen the opportunity to ask educated juniors questions on a real basis, as opposed to some misconstrued information on the internet." [Read more...](#)

New Teen PEP schools in NJ and NC. CSS welcomes New Jersey schools

Jefferson Township High School, Plainfield High School, and Saddle Brook High School to the Teen PEP network with generous support from the New Jersey Department of Health. In North Carolina, The Duke Endowment is generously supporting us to bring Teen PEP to E.E. Smith High School, Northampton County High School, and Southeast Halifax High School. Southeast Halifax High School



Teen PEP students perform an outreach at the Day of Learning



Students role play at the Teen PEP Day of Learning

Principal Ann Debreaux-Davis said, "This year I had several of my senior girls that were pregnant, and that is totally unacceptable. It was a norm that they got pregnant and didn't take precautions because they didn't understand the repercussions." Principal Debreaux-Davis goes on to say that Teen PEP, "is just an excellent opportunity for our students and it brings much needed (sexual health) awareness to our students, our community and our school. We are so looking forward to it." [Read more...](#)

Partner spotlight: Fred Vasapolli, New Jersey Department of Health. Since our partnership with NJDOH began in 1995, Fred Vasapolli, Program Specialist, has been a constant source of knowledge, insight, and support. Fred shares, *"There is nothing more gratifying to those of us in public health than to see young people benefit from our collaborations. The number of Teen PEP graduates in the last 20 years; the thousands of young people who have been empowered by the education they've received; the teachers and health educators who have been energized by Teen PEP; and the parents who have improved their communication with their children - all these things speak more eloquently about the value of Teen PEP than anything I can say."*

We are so grateful for Fred's partnership and for his dedication to our work over two decades of collaboration!



Daniel F. Oscar
CEO

P.S. As always, if you'd like additional information about anything you've read, simply hit reply and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!