



Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.

The Parent Training and Information Center for the District of Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Children with
Special Needs,
need Parents
with Special
Skills!**

AJE Implements New Program to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in the District of Columbia

Washington, D.C. – Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. (AJE) is pleased to announce a new program: the Committed Adolescents being Responsible and Empowered (CARE) Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. This program provides comprehensive sexuality education for teens with special needs in the District of Columbia, and increase access to resources, contraceptive counseling and screening services.

The CARE Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program targets youth and young adults with special needs including cognitive, social, developmental, emotional needs and at-risk youth not yet identified, ages 12 – 19, residing in the District of Columbia. The CARE program (a) Provides Comprehensive Sexuality Education to Youth with Special Needs; (b) Provides a Safe Space for Youth to problem-solve and address issues relating to puberty, healthy relationships and personal safety; (c) Increases Awareness of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Resources; (e) Provides Clinical Referrals for Youth to access counseling and contraceptive services; and (d) Promotes Effective Communication between Youth, Parents and Providers.

Weadé Wallace, AJE's Executive Director, stated, "We're honored to be one of 16 local organizations awarded to implement programs that aim to decrease the incidence of teen pregnancy in the District of Columbia. Sexuality education for youth with disabilities is often ignored. The CARE Teen Pregnancy Prevention program will provide youth with special needs strategies, resources and access to encourage healthy sexuality." Individuals interested in learning more about the CARE Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program are encouraged to contact: Lynn Truong, MSW, Project Director, at (202) 678-8060 or email lynn.truong@aje-dc.org. Special thanks to the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for providing technical assistance to implement this program.

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Founded in 1996, the mission of Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. (AJE) is to promote equality for children and youth with special needs in the areas of education and health. AJE offers free direct services including individual advocacy, training, resources, support and legal representation to ensure that children and youth with special needs have equal access to education and health services. AJE is home to the federally designated Parent Training and Information Center for the District of Columbia, the Family-to-Family DC Health Information Center, and the DC Parent Information Network.