

INSTITUTE FOR RELATIONSHIP INTELLIGENCE

CHANGING MINDS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

The *Institute for Relationship Intelligence* reaches more than 8,000 teens each year in urban & suburban areas of NY/NJ with messages of healthy relationships, self-leadership and service to others. In the last decade, *I.R.I.* has reached more than 100,000 youth, helping them to focus on achieving their future dreams and avoiding the traps that could endanger their lives and goals!



Since 1998 when *I.R.I.* began to offer educational and after-school youth development programs in Jersey City and Paterson, **birth rates among unmarried 10-19 year-olds in Jersey City dropped by 37% and in Paterson by 29%** (1998 to 2005). In demographically similar Elizabeth and Passaic City, which had no risk avoidance education, the reductions were only 10% during those years. Overall, births to unmarried girls ages 10-19 in New Jersey dropped 18% in these years.¹

R.I.T. Education Saves Taxpayers Millions

The *National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy* has estimated that teen childbearing costs in New Jersey cost NJ taxpayers \$3.3 billion between 1991 to 2004, or \$27,341 per birth.² The average 15% extra reduction in teen births in Jersey City and Paterson (above the statewide average reduction of 18%) contributed to by intensive *Relationship Intelligence Training* risk avoidance education (775 of 1705 less births from 2001- 2005) has resulted in a projected savings of \$21,189,275 in federal, state and local expenditures for public health care, child welfare, incarceration and lost tax revenue over a 14 year period.

1. <http://njshad.doh.state.nj.us/birmunage1220.html>
2. <http://teenpregnancy.org/costs/tables.asp>

Participants Engaged in 2009 - 2010

- 8,050 Middle School & High School students
- 52 High Schools and Middle Schools
- 214 youth at 12 after-school Club Sites
- 647 Parents Educated

“Medically accurate, in conformance with public health principles and policies, and appropriate for the intended audience.”

-National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

“One of the top three curricula on relationships and marriage in the country!”

-Institute for American Values

“Too many teens don’t value themselves. RIT’s message is absolutely important for students to hear!”

-AW, 7th & 8th grade teacher, PS16, Jersey City, NJ

Community/ Regional Affiliations

The *Institute for Relationship Intelligence* works closely with numerous school districts in NY and NJ including the Jersey City, Bayonne and Paterson School Districts in New Jersey and the Mt. Vernon and Newburgh School Districts in New York, as well as many others. It works closely with the *Jersey City Community That Cares Coalition*, *Partners in Prevention*, the *Paterson Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition* and the *Paterson Alliance*.



Institute for Relationship Intelligence

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Web Sites

LoveSmarts.org
FreeTeensUSA.org
FreeTeensYouth.org
CultureMachine.com

4 Stages of *Relationship Intelligence Training*

Stage One: *Relationship Intelligence Training* Presentations & Workbook Activities

The *Relationship Intelligence Training* powerpoint presentation (available in Spanish & 8 other languages) is used to reach teens about choices and consequences in achieving a successful life as well as the risks posed to future goals by teen sex, alcohol and drug use. Medical facts and real life stories about people who became infected with HIV or other STDS are presented and discussed. Students are asked to clarify their future dreams and life goals. Other topics include dating, refusal skills, dealing with media and peer pressure, discovering self-worth through helping others, and the benefits of healthy marriages, including better physical and mental health, better sex, higher income and better outcomes for children.

Roleplaying of refusal skills & participatory learning using the *Free Teens* and *Relationship Intelligence* student workbooks help students to internalize the ideas being presented and apply them to their own lives.



Stage Two: After-school *Free Teens* Clubs

Teens who have completed *Relationship Intelligence Training* are invited to join an after-school program that meets at 12 locations in NY/NJ throughout the year. The *Relationship Intelligence* curriculum is used as the basis for weekly teen discussions in club meetings. Members also participate in Community Service Projects. At the annual year-end banquet club members are honored for keeping their commitments and for contributions to their communities.

Stage Three: Parent Training in "Guiding Your Child through the Teen Years"

These workshops are designed to motivate parents to take an active part in guiding their children to focus on their future goals and avoiding high-risk behaviors. The program is designed to give parents the information and skills they need to confidently communicate with their children on these topics! Interested parents can join the *Free Teens Village Advisory Council* to create events that increase community support for the message of healthy relationships.



Stage Four: *Free Teens Media Institute* and *CultureMachine* Activities

Through the *Free Teens Media Institute*, teens who have come to think more critically about culture in the light of their personal goals and ideals are trained to communicate through one or more of the following media: 1). Video production; 2). Theater; 3). Music; 4). Visual arts; 5) photojournalism, 6). Dance/Performance; and 7) Poetry/Spoken Word. Teen performance groups spread the message of healthy man-woman relationships through theater and dance in New York and New Jersey. *CultureShock* teams visit schools in New York and New Jersey and work with student musicians to write and record music containing positive messages.

Teen-created songs and videos are posted on *CultureMachine.com* and included in interactive *CultureMachine iMagazine* CD-ROMs distributed to teens around the country.

In 2010, a musical, *IMANI: a Daughter's Story*, was created. This powerful and uplifting musical deals with universal issues of trust and the need for communication between parents and their teenage children.
