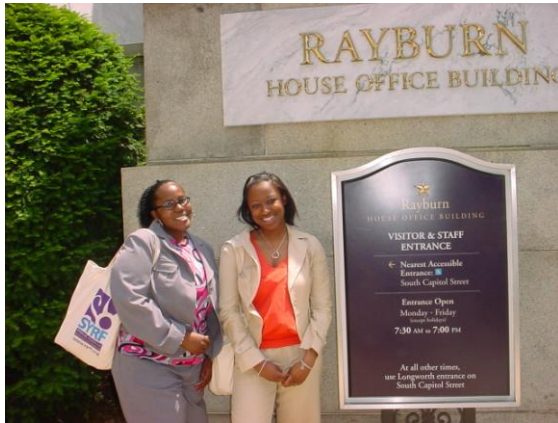


## Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice



### Learning About the World, *Generation to Generation*

When three lively, bright teenagers from Southeast Washington DC went to Congress recently, they were taking a much bigger trip than the four miles between their homes and the U.S. Capitol. The young women - ages 14 and 15 - were participants in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice's teen pregnancy prevention program *Generation to Generation*, and they were learning about a world of possibilities that could be open to them if they delayed pregnancy and continued their educations.

The Generation to Generation program was instituted three years ago in the city's Ward 8, a low-income area with the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the District of Columbia. "Teen childbearing has so many disadvantages," said program director Reverend Penny Willis, "that we needed a comprehensive approach to address as many of the factors contributing to it as possible."

In response, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice developed an intergenerational approach to take steps to break the cycle of teen childbearing that traps so many young women in life-long poverty.

"All of the teen girls in the program have a responsible adult to talk to about their goals, sexual decision-making and day-to-day problems so that their peers are not the only ones available to give advice or support," said Reverend Willis. At the same time, their parents, guardians, or caregivers and mentors in the program also receive education and support.

Cultural and social enrichment is also important. The three teenagers who went to Congress had never been there before, and RCRC's Public Policy Department arranged a special opportunity for them - they met with a legislative aide to a member of Congress to talk about their experiences in Generation to Generation. "These girls live in communities where teen parenting may be viewed as a solution to financial, housing and relationship needs," said Reverend Willis. "We show them other ways of living, to help them understand that having financial security is possible without early childbearing...We help them feel that there is something worth delaying pregnancy for. "



### Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice's Sex Education Superstar Campaign

In March, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice launched a campaign to engage state activists in our campaign to support the Responsible Education about Life (REAL) Act. In addition to encouraging activists to simply lend their names to People of Faith for REAL campaign, we also asked that advocates lend their faces too!

Specifically, we asked our network to create signs featuring a faithful message about support for comprehensive sexuality education ("I am a Christian Methodist and I support comprehensive sexuality education!" or "Another Muslim for the REAL Act.") The response was enthusiastic and we received pledges of support and accompanying photos from across the country. One of our young adult activists set

up a photo booth in her dorm, others brought a camera along to their Our Whole Lives (comprehensive sexuality education curriculum used by the United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist community) facilitator training to participate in our campaign. We're still collecting photos and plan to compile them into a short video which will be sent to elected officials with notes from constituents advocating for comprehensive sexuality education funding.

For more information about the Sex Ed Superstar Campaign, please visit <http://www.syrf.org/web/guest/SexEdSuperstar>.