WHAT IS THE ARTS OF LIVING INSTITUTE?

Arts of Living Institute is a comprehensive program that provides services in cooperation with the Chicago Board of Education to pregnant and parenting Chicago teens in specific high schools. The Institute primarily focuses on young mothers and their children and offers accredited high school health classes, counseling, case management, and referral services to pregnant and parenting teens and their families. Psycho-educational groups on child development, infant and maternal health and parenting skills are also available. The program is open to students attending selected public high schools in the City of Chicago.

AN ARTS OF LIVING SUCCESS STORY

Afraid to tell her parents of her pregnancy, Ariana talked with her Arts of Living caseworker at the program about ways to break the news. At one point, the worker was ready to go with Ariana, but two relatives ended up accompanying her for that difficult conversation. Now a college student and married to the father of her children, Ariana has reconciled with her own parents who enjoy both their grandchildren.

Arts of Living Institute (AOL) does whatever it takes to keep young parents in school. For example, when Ariana’s youngest child was hospitalized during finals week, Kate, a nurse for the AOL program, came to the hospital, bringing school work provided by Ariana’s teachers so she wouldn’t miss her exams. Ariana credits Kate with keeping her focused on the college application process, by reminding her to send in paperwork, and providing scholarship information. AOL also helped Ariana locate licensed child care, by linking her up with a state-funded child care resource.

With the help of AOL staff, and her own determination, Ariana graduated from high school and enrolled in a private college. “Life is harder with kids; you have to do more,” Ariana says. “My children motivate me to make a better life for them.”

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

- Counseling
- Case Management
- Home Visiting
- Crisis Intervention
- Psycho-educational groups on child development, infant and maternal health and parenting skills
- Parent Enrichment Activities including play groups and summer field trips

Referrals for:
- Health Care Clinics
- WIC
- Child Care
- Housing
- Food
- Jobs
- Transportation
- GED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (312) 655-7103
OR VISIT WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES.NET

THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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