



Press Release

For immediate release

For more information:

October 13, 2011

Mary Ann McLeod

Director of Community Services
Bethany for Children & Families
1830 6th Ave.
Moline, Illinois 61265
309.736.6645
mmcleod@bethany-qc.org

Are you an askable parent?

Do you know what to say when your child asks you questions about sex?

Moline, Illinois – Are you an “askable” parent or do you become nervous, hesitant, or embarrassed when your child asks you a question about sex? To gain insight on how to best answer your child’s questions and help him or her gain accurate information related to making responsible decisions regarding early sexual activity and its ramifications, plan to attend a parent meeting, entitled *Know What to Say*, at:

- ✓ Thursday, November 10, 2011 ---Williams Intermediate School, 3040 N. Division St. Davenport, Iowa ---6:30 PM

OR

- ✓ Tuesday, November 15, 2011 ---Pleasant Valley High School, 604 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 ---6:30 pm

Know What to Say, now in its sixth year, is a teen pregnancy prevention strategy provided by Bethany for Children & Families in collaboration with Edgerton Women’s Health Center and Scott County Health Department. This program, funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services, through the Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant, provides parents, school staff members, and other concerned community members with informational workshops/trainings designed to help children postpone early sexual activity in an effort to avoid teen pregnancy and its consequences. As a result of this program participants will be provided with the opportunity to:

- ◆ gain accurate and current information on how to effectively communicate with their children/students about sex and its consequences;
- ◆ acquire tools and techniques on how to effectively listen to their children/students;
- ◆ attain an increased comfort level in talking with children/students about sex; and
- ◆ increase the likelihood of talking to their children/students about sex.

Cognizant of the fact that the teen birth rate in both Rock Island County in Illinois and Scott County in Iowa is higher than the respective state rates, Mary Ann McLeod, Division Director of Community Services at Bethany for Children & Families, says that “To provide children with the tools necessary to make responsible decisions regarding sexual activity, it is necessary for parents to establish an ongoing interchange with their children regarding accurate information related to sex as well as the social and emotional implications of having sex at an early age.” Additionally, says McLeod. "In today’s society where youth are surrounded by sexual messages from the media, internet, and cell phones, parents must be the first to provide open, honest, and ongoing conversations with their children about sex and the impact it will have on their lives.” Other informational meetings will be offered to parents, staff members, and interested community members in school districts and/or churches located in Scott County.

###