



The Azalea Project

local support azalea receives

The Azalea Project continued its outreach to substance-involved families at risk of acquiring HIV in 2008 with continued support from the state Healthy Start program, the City of Jacksonville and the Women's Giving Alliance. The special initiative offers education and support at a store-front site in Springfield. Gateway Community Services provides two co-located case managers through a contract with Healthy Start to serve substance-affected pregnant women.

City funding supports an additional case manager who focuses on at-risk women of childbearing age who are not pregnant. The Public Services Grants Council of the City of Jacksonville recommended \$61,983 in continued funding for the Project in 2008-09. Support from the Women's Giving Alliance enables the Project to employ a community outreach worker who assists in locating and engaging participants who are referred for Project services. The Azalea Project works closely with the Healthy Start programs at the Duval County Health Department and Shands Jacksonville, as well as local substance abuse treatment providers. More than 180 women were assisted through the Project in 2008.

This Mother's Day, Healthy Start launched its first fundraising campaign to raise \$5,000 for Azalea. The funds will provide emergency services, like food, housing and clothing, to at-risk women and their children. Thanks to the dedication of the people involved, like the DuBow Family Foundation, we reached our goal.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A birthday celebration was held for all of the babies born to the Azalea Project in remembrance of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Past and present participants of the Project were there with their children.

The families were treated to food and games, while the kids could have their faces painted and play with the other children in a safe and fun environment.

NO MORE DRAMA

Project participants took part in the *No More Drama* group activities. Each activity focuses on topics such as Appreciating Yourself, Managing Stress, Family Planning, What Do You Want In Your Life, How Can You Protect Yourself, along with many other topics.

During the Managing Stress meeting, the participants constructed pillows as an example of an activity to relax and relieve stress.

2008-2009 annual report





loving mothers celebrated

Azalea celebrated its mothers with a Mother's Day Celebration. A group of Azalea participants were honored at a luncheon. They were recognized for their hard work as women and mothers. The participants earn Azalea points for many of their accomplishments, such as completing the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, attaining housing, attending prenatal visits, staying drug free, among many other things. The points allow the women to purchase an array of donated items including home, beauty, baby and personal products.

CITY RESCUE MISSION DESIGN ON A DIME - BABIES

Volunteers donated time and materials to decorate the room adopted by the Azalea Project at City Rescue Mission for pregnant moms and newborns. City Rescue Mission is an organization that has provided help to the homeless and needy in Jacksonville since 1946. It provides emergency and recovery services to people in need. The room includes a crib, changing table, lamp, side tables, bunk beds, bedding and storage. Donations included carpeting from a member of the Women's Giving Alliance and children's themed decorations to make the room inviting and special for the Project participants.

NFAN ACTIVITIES

Azalea Project participants completed the NEFL AIDS Network (NFAN) Healthy Relationships on the prevention of HIV. The women of Azalea received an abundance of HIV education related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and relationships to prevent HIV. The women attended five weekly sessions and graduated at the end of the five weeks. The group activities forged relationships by consistently attending the group together over a period of time.

life course perspective case management

Staff members presented "Integrating the Life Course Perspective into Case Management" at the annual Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions meeting. The Life Course Model includes an examination of the social determinants that impact and affect birth outcomes. Rather than focusing on risk, behaviors and services during pregnancy, the cumulative effects of health and life events are examined and integrated into case management services. Azalea has two case managers who maintain a caseload of 15 women who receive intensive services.

Azalea Project Birth Outcomes, July 2008 – June 2009		
Normal (< 5.5 lbs)	28	90%
Low Birth Weight (>5.5lbs – 3.5 lbs)	2	7%
Very Low Birth Weight (>3.5lbs)	1	3%
Substance Exposed Newborn	0	0%
HIV Positive	0	0%
TOTAL BIRTHS	31	100%

