



TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI



ADVOCACY • SERVICE • RIGHTS • VOICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Readers,
We did it! On January 1, 2019, Teen Health Mississippi became a standalone 501(c)(3). We've made some significant strides, and we have seen our work affect change across the state. We officially have a full-time staff of nine (originally a staff of four at the beginning of 2019), plus the 40 contractors and young people statewide who work tirelessly to make our mission possible. We have provided education and training from north to south Mississippi and even in Louisiana and have offices in Jackson and Clarksdale.

In this inaugural year, we awarded five subgrantees, the first of which was to a youth council in Durant, MS, and the remainder to four youth-serving organizations, Mothers Obtaining Justice & Opportunities, Spring Initiative, Tougaloo College/Delta Health Partners Healthy Start Initiative and Raising Mothers to Rise, that provide support to pregnant and expecting teens. We have traveled more than 20,000 miles to conferences, events, and trainings to spread our mission. You see, at THMS, we see our work as part of a greater movement to ensure all teens in Mississippi have knowledge about their sexual and reproductive health (SRH). We put in the work because we know when we support and empower young people in Mississippi, whole communities benefit! Our 360-degree approach involves training, capacity building, advocacy, programs and initiatives, and bringing youth and communities together.

We are truly grateful because we know none of these milestones would have been possible without an amazing staff and board, talented young people, generous donors, amazing partners and a host of friends and family, all of whom believe that Mississippi youth deserve access to high-quality sex education and youth-friendly healthcare. Furthermore, to those listed above, thank you for believing in THMS' vision for a better Mississippi where youth and the communities they live in have access to resources, information, and opportunities to push Mississippi forward.

Our work has just begun. We are looking forward to an even greater 2020! Just a sneak peak into next year: THMS will celebrate its first birthday. In addition, you will find us serving as a regional hub for training youth leaders across the southeast United States, drafting new sex education legislation, exhibiting and presenting at major health conferences across the nation, creating a new youth group called MYVoice-Jackson, a peer to peer HIV/AIDS education training program, and hosting a statewide World AIDS Day event on December 1, 2020.

We invite you to help us build a stronger Teen Health Movement in Mississippi. To learn more, visit us on the web at teenhealthms.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Regards,
Hope L. Crenshaw, PhD

“When we empower our young people, it helps our state. A lot of young people have left Mississippi because they haven’t been able to access opportunities to live a quality life.”

—**Monica Coleman, Director of Education and Training**

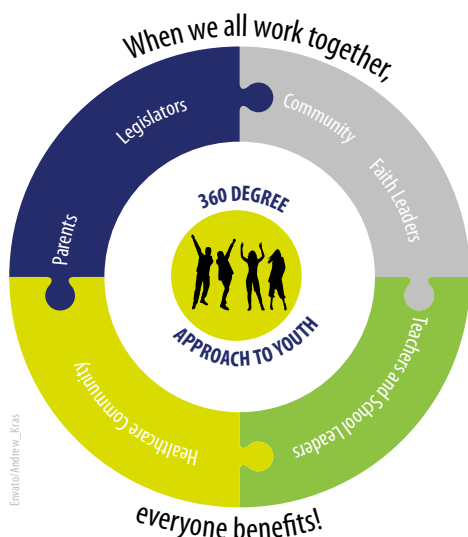
Our **MISSION** is to ensure that all Mississippi teens have access to high-quality sex education and youth-friendly healthcare services.

We **ENVISION** a healthier Mississippi where teens have access to essential knowledge, skills, resources, and support so they may grow into healthy adults and move Mississippi forward.

We **VALUE** working for, and in partnership with, young people across the state of Mississippi. We approach our work with enthusiasm and dedication.

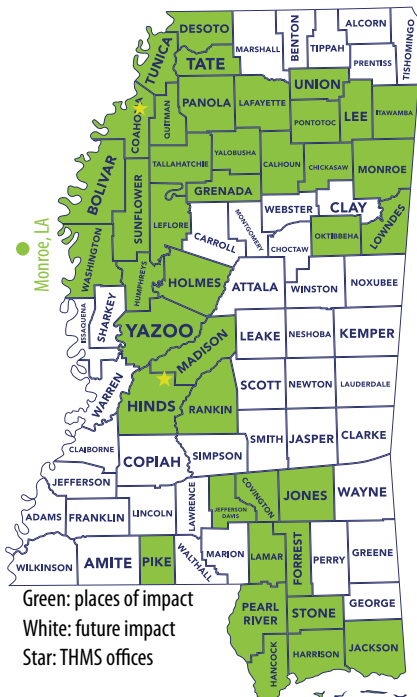
For more information about our guiding principles, visit teenhealthms.org/about-us.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



Ernst/Andrew_Kras

AREAS OF IMPACT





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CREATING HEALTHY & RESPONSIBLE TEENS (C.H.A.R.T.) is now in more than 30 school districts across Mississippi. More than 15,000 Mississippi students have received abstinence-plus education. **Who it impacts:** school districts

FOCUSED PREGNANCY PREVENTION FOR MISSISSIPPI TEENS (FOCUS4TEENS) has worked with young people in developing a website that will highlight birth control options. With help from F4T, Teen Health Mississippi's clinical health system partner was able to stock a range of contraceptive options in five clinics and make it available for same-day services at some locations. **Who It Impacts:** healthcare providers, youth-serving organizations

MISSISSIPPI YOUTH COUNCIL (MYCOUNCIL) helped craft the language for House Bill 1347, which would require the State Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Health to develop a list of evidence-based, medically accurate, and age-appropriate curriculum every five years. The bill would also allow parents to opt out of sex education in their young persons' schools. **Who It Impacts:** teens, policymakers

MYSUMMIT had 47 attendees at the June 2019 event. The 2020 goal is 100. **Who It Impacts:** teens, policymakers



MISSISSIPPI YOUTH VOICE EDUCATORS (MYVOICE) collected 215 needs assessments from young people across Coahoma County. **Who it impacts:** youth in Coahoma County

LEGISLATIVE & EDUCATION ADVOCACY COLLABORATIVE (LEAC) worked on policy and legislative strategies with lawmakers. **Who it impacts:** teens, policymakers





“MYSummit equipped me with tools needed to achieve my own advocacy goals and organize the people who I need to help me do that.”
—Ava Davis,
Murrah High School

LINKEDUP is currently working on a resource guide that will come out in the first quarter of 2020. **Who it impacts:** schools, graduating teens

MIND ELEVATION. (ME. PROJECT) has seven ME. Influencers. The program has participated in events such as college fairs, panels, and a takeover of the Mississippi State Fair in October 2019. **Who it impacts:** high school teens in Mississippi

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE FUND awarded its first grantees in 2019. PAF is working on a resource guide in February 2020 for expectant and parenting youth. **Who it impacts:** expectant and parenting youth

K5 HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE now has four schools in Mississippi who have adopted the K5 curriculum. **Who it impacts:** schools, children

TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI CADRE rebranded itself from the Mississippi Sex Education Cadre. It currently has 10 contractors, its largest number to date. The cadre has held more than 130 trainings across Mississippi and has trained 350+ people. **Who it impacts:** schools, teens, parents, and community- and faith-based organizations

HEALTHCARE TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE has impacted counties across Mississippi and expanded to Louisiana. **Who it impacts:** healthcare providers, communities

For more information about our programs, visit teenhealthms.org.





YOUTH VOICES MATTER

In May 2019, I joined the ME. Project, which bridges the gap between mental and sexual and reproductive health. I became a part of an organization that has changed my life for the better. I've been exposed to a great deal of knowledge, and through this program, I have been given a new perspective that has allowed me to aid

each young person I meet. My time in the program has also taught me a lot about topics such as sex education, mental health, reproductive health, consent, communication skills, and so much more.

My work with THMS has benefited me personally as well. I had a desire a long time ago to start my own program to help youth, but I could never find the courage to fulfill this dream. It wasn't until the ME. Project that everything shifted. I now see everything through a clearer lens. I no longer just dream; I plan and create.

There is a major gap in young people's education about their sexual and mental health. The other Influencers and I are young advocates who want to ensure that all Mississippi teens have access to high-quality sex education and mental health services. This is only the beginning. There is more work to be done!

Ilesha Hayes

ME. Project Influencer

OUR IMPACT



Teen Health Mississippi currently has 11 programs that cross areas such as capacity building, parent trainings and youth-friendly healthcare.



THMS has traveled 20,000+ miles in 2019. The furthest was Seattle and New York.



THMS has reached more than 10,000 people and currently has about 2,337 followers on social media.



Teen Health Mississippi has conducted 130+ trainings that reached more than 300 people.

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Want to see just how we do what we do?
Check out our most recently [audited financial statements](https://teenhealthms.org)
at teenhealthms.org.



DONATE TODAY

You can donate today at teenhealthms.org, mail your gift to 125 S. Congress St., Suite 1224, Jackson, MS 39201, or call our Executive Director Hope Crenshaw at 601-487-1228 for more information on how you can make a difference at Teen Health Mississippi. Together, we can continue to move Mississippi forward.

**TEEN HEALTH
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T H M S

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