

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 10th, 2018

**Teen Parents Learn about Alternative Career Opportunities:
Atlantic Street Center and The Shop Team Up for Local Youth**

Atlantic Street Center
2103 S Atlantic Street
Seattle, WA 98144
www.atlanticstreetcenter.org

Contact:
Gabriel Mathews, Communications Officer
205-454-3901
GabrielM@atlanticstreet.org

Seattle, WA, Monday, October 30th, 2018 5:30 – 7 pm - Atlantic Street Center's Youth Development & Education Program has been supporting homeless or housing-insecure teen parents through the Teens as Parents Program (TAPP) since 2000. Beyond offering parenting classes and guidance, support with housing and legal issues, and targeted case management, TAPP also aims to empower young parents to visualize new and better opportunities for themselves and their children.

To that end, the TAPP program is collaborating with local businesses The Shop and Derby (**2233 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134**) on Monday, October 30th for a tour of their facilities – a state-of-the-art auto club and the attached restaurant. TAPP participants will learn about non-traditional career paths, such as automotive work, restaurant work, and small business management. The Shop offers washing bays, detailing services, use of high-end tools and equipment for auto enthusiasts, and the assistance of on-staff mechanics and experts. Derby is an innovative restaurant-meets-showroom, with an exciting menu of comfort classics.

Atlantic Street Center's teen parent participants will have the chance to learn, ask questions, and explore the facilities, developing new inspirations and avenues for their own futures by seeing more and more of what's possible.

About Atlantic Street Center and the Teens as Parents Program:

Founded in 1910, Atlantic Street Center is an award-winning agency providing services to children, youth, and their families for over one hundred years. As one of our region's oldest non-profit social service agencies, we work to address disparities facing our families and communities to help them raise healthy, successful children and youth. We provide wrap-around services including education, family support, and behavioral health counseling to the low-income minority populations of the greater Seattle area.

One of ASC's signature programs for the past 18 years, the Teens as Parents Program (TAPP) arose in response to teen parents' pressing need for support. Our confidential program offers comprehensive education and guidance in order to improve parenting skills, prepare pregnant and parenting youth for occupational and educational success, and build self-sufficiency. We provide these young parents – who are homeless or housing-insecure - with access to critical resources and opportunities so that they can create better lives for themselves and their children.

We offer each participant comprehensive case management, child-care and free hot meals for parents and children during meetings, as well as access to our counseling services. We are able to offer TAPP to over 60 participants a year.

Michelle Mitchell-Brannon, Youth Development & Education Program Manager, is available for interviews, and press is invited to join our tour at the Shop and Derby.

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