

# AMTC NEWS



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AMTC & Associates Newsletter

[www.amtcassociates.com](http://www.amtcassociates.com)

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## Letter from the Principal

2015 has been a year of tremendous, positive change and growth. It's as true for me personally as it is for our organization. Our clients place their highest level of confidence in AMTC & Associates. In turn, since inception, we've made a positive impact in 92 communities throughout the United States. We've expanded to represent diverse clients, all of whom count on our researchers and data systems experts. Organizational growth has even mirrored significant changes in my life, as an individual and for my family. For all this, I am exceptionally grateful.



I realize these accomplishments could only happen with a dedicated staff. Whether it's personal or professional, no one is an island onto him/herself. Only through support and community can one's potential grow into reality—and that's exactly why AMTC & Associates is here. AMTC supports initiatives that strengthen individuals and families, with tried and true assistance in the areas of teen pregnancy prevention, healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood, offender reentry, and workforce development.

AMTC's organizational development has mirrored much of my personal, professional growth. After providing a decade of leadership to the Center for Self-Sufficiency, as CEO and President, I watched it strengthen—and succeed. Although saying goodbye is never easy, I am confident that I left the Center for Self-Sufficiency in good hands, under strong, new leadership.

Now my sole, professional focus is AMTC. By adhering to our mission, "To serve our clients by providing the highest quality professional services to help them grow and sustain their organization," AMTC has become integral to the organizations we serve, and committed to further growth.

It's a commitment held by all our staff, as diverse as they are knowledgeable, leaders in varying fields and backgrounds. From researchers and professors in varied disciplines, to founders and key members of organizations, to business entrepreneurs, our expert staff serves with years of relevant experiences, across multiple platforms. Our clients are in the best of hands, as we continually strive to exceed all expectations. We do so with belief in and responsibility for our individual and collective commitments. We're there every step of the way, and we're proud to help organizations—and ultimately families—reach new milestones.

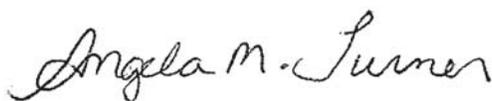
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Even my personal milestones have evolved along with AMTC. This parallel is not a coincidence, as AMTC's ideals are one in the same with how I try to lead my life: strong family values and priorities lead to accomplishing every goal and weathering every storm. In this past year, my daughter became engaged, and so did her mother! My twin boys embarked on college. Another daughter of mine, despite some developmental challenges, is considering further educational opportunities with her own college experience, thanks to the inspiration from her brothers. Everyone, whether in my own family or for the individuals we serve, can accomplish far beyond perceived limitations.

With that, I hope you will stay connected. Stay up to date with forthcoming newsletters and our topnotch, newly released website: [www.amtcassociates.com](http://www.amtcassociates.com). Read about our amazing, talented and dedicated staff, which I am fortunate to call our team. We look forward to highlighting a new staff member with each new newsletter, and we look forward to connecting with you, every step of the way.

This month's feature article contains pertinent information regarding the new, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services five-year-cycle grant, from the Office of Adolescent Health Teen Pregnancy Prevention. We hope you will enjoy learning more about how this important work will be implemented in five high-need communities throughout the nation.

Above all, let's help each other realize our unique talents and abilities to their fullest, that with our collective, unified support—anything is possible.



Angela Turner, Principal

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## Featured Associate

### Joshua Becker



Joshua Becker joined AMTC in 2015 to support communication projects. He has an extensive professional background as a writer, editor and content manager. He simultaneously leads magazines, contributes to newspapers, and has experience editing novels. Joshua is a diverse writer, with coverage of topics that include business, family, health, religion, education and much more. He is equally adept at short copy as he is for longer pieces. He has the ability to take complex ideas and distill that information so that it's easily understood and at the same time compelling. Joshua has an uncanny ability to form articles into a unified and cohesive structure, even when information might initially appear to others as disparate. He is pleased and privileged to contribute to communication projects, including this and forthcoming newsletters, for AMTC & Associates.

# TPPP and Title X are in Peril, but We Can Save Them

By Joshua Becker

Adolescence is not—should not—be a liability. To the contrary, a teenager’s unbridled energy and idealism can change the shape of our world. At the same time, in order for a teen to shape his or her life into healthy channels, the individual needs guidance from those with more life experiences.

It is therefore incumbent upon us to educate teenagers to think deeply about how their sexual choices, today, will necessarily impact the rest of their lives. We’ve already made an incredible, positive difference. The statistics are staggering. Thanks to our collective efforts with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), since 2010, the teen birth rate has decreased by 29%. This is twice as large a decline in any previous four-year period!

Eighty-three percent of all adults surveyed support the TPPP, and there is a high level of backing across races, ethnicities, regions, and political parties and ideologies (92% Democratic support, 75% Republican support). Title X Family Planning Program also has much support, with 77% of all adults surveyed, across political lines (86% of Democrats, 57% of Republicans). With this data, the high level of support, and our unwavering commitment, the future looks bright—or so we hope.

Our future, and the invaluable work that goes along with it, is in peril. The Senate proposed to slash funding for the TPPP and Title X by a whopping 80%, from \$101 million to \$20 million. If this decrease in funding becomes reality, the bottom line is those with current grants will be severely limited—without the funds we initially thought available. That’s called a broken promise, not only to us but particularly to those we serve.

We must do everything possible to avert this devastating cut. There’s too much at stake. While the proposal was set in motion, nothing has been set-in-stone, yet. Additionally, it’s unclear whether the House or Senate will come to the floor for a vote. If it does, the Administration has expressed concern and might veto it. This might be reassuring, but this issue is too important to leave to chance.

Concurrently, another issue looms over Congress. Either it takes action on appropriations before the current fiscal year, by September 30<sup>th</sup>, or it faces a government shutdown. As a result, many suspect (but don’t know for sure) that Congress will pass a short-term continuing resolution (CR) which continues current funding—and in turn allows us more time to stand up for what’s right, to save TPPP and Title X.

Keep in mind that any cut in funding is significant, even one that might be less than an 80% reduction. In order for the success and well-being of all our stakeholders, Congress must fully fund the evidence-based TPPP at \$101 million. We can; nay, we must act now:

- Call your congressional members. Stress how the TPPP and Title X have made an indelible impact in the lives of teens, their families, and their communities.
- While federal grantees are not allowed to lobby, share information with those involved in policy-making. Ask others to do the same.
- Organizations are allowed to lobby with other funds, per the rules of each organization.

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- Develop a statement or press release, and share it with your local press, along with what the devastating cuts would mean to you and those you serve.
- Submit an editorial to the local newspaper and/or media outlets, and encourage others to do likewise.
- If your board members, friends, or even friends of friends have strong relationships with a congressional delegation, a quick phone call or email can go a long way.

Remember, a teen experiences much of the same yearnings as adults, but often without the maturity to cope with those feelings. For those of us who do have the ability to envision the long-term consequences, and/or have life experiences to share, it is our duty and privilege to provide direction for these teens. As cliché as it may sound, they truly are the future of our country.

Without full funding, we are at a high risk of regression, of responding to the symptoms rather than the causes. Above all, no one is lost, no person unreachable. Yet, we need the necessary funding to reach everyone. And for that, we have each other. Join us, please.

All data referenced above is derived from © The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Citation: 2015 Polling Data. (n.d.). Retrieved September 2015, from [www.thenationalcampaign.org](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org)

**AMTC & Associates Brings Solutions to You**

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### *Coming Soon*

Our incredible team continues to grow, in numbers and in strength. Each upcoming newsletter will feature one of our dedicated staff members. Please look forward to next month's feature on Torri Childs. While Torri has been an important part of AMTC & Associates since 2008, she recently joined full time as a Field Research Associate. Welcome, Torri! To learn more about our diversified associates, please visit our recently updated website: [www.amtcassociates.com](http://www.amtcassociates.com).

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