



WELCOME
TAKE TIME FOR CHILDREN WALK

Thank you for making the commitment to walk and/ or raise pledges for the many children enrolled in programs offered by Teen Approach, Inc. Whether this is your first walk with us or you've been walking since 1997, your participation truly makes a difference.

Since 1995, Teen Approach, Inc has devoted its entire business to enhancing the lives of Milwaukee's urban children. Primarily through its unique *Life Adventure Camps* and child-led community service initiatives, Teen Approach, Inc. has worked to achieve its mission by create lasting, positive change in the lives of children ages 8 to 14 . Each camp experience provides a hands-on, creative outdoor/indoor adventure that support healthy choices, builds upon self-confidence, and promotes a desire to make better decisions, better friends, and better lives for themselves.

Our commitment to offering high-quality, premium programs at reasonable costs is very important to us. As a result of the generous support of our community, we have been able to work with families to ensure that their children are afforded the opportunity to be a Teen Approach camper. This has meant that all children have access to our programs regardless of their family's income. We welcome your support of our work as we continue our commitment to providing a unique and empowering breadth of services to Milwaukee's youth.

On behalf of Teen Approach, Inc., our parents, and especially our children, we say **“Thank You”** for your support of our dedication to helping children make healthy life choices.

Thank you,
Roxie Hentz
Founding Executive Director

Mission:

Teen Approach, Inc. engages children **ages 8-14** in unique learning experiences through innovative programs that build character and promote a healthy spirit, mind and body.

WHY IS PARTICIPATING IN THE WALK SO IMPORTANT?

When reading the headlines or hearing the statistics, most Americans worry about the backlash resulting from our nation's children being left unsupervised, particularly during out-of-school hours. But the number of America's children and adolescents without adult supervision during out-of-school time is increasing at an alarming rate. Now, more than ever, there is a need for formal school- and center-based programs that provide care for children between ages 8 and 14.

What does research say?

In one study, *Evaluating the Impact of Recreational Programs*, researchers found that school-aged children between the ages of 8 and 14 spend up to 80% of their time out of school and only 20% of them are enrolled in a school or center-based program. Yet studies have shown that this population is especially in need of supervision, especially during weekends and summers. An article from Newsweek Magazine, *Do You Know Where Your Children Are*, revealed that school-aged children looking after themselves are at significantly greater risk of truancy from school, stress, receiving poor grades, risk-taking behavior, and substance abuse. Even in the best neighborhoods, these children are also often the targets of victimization.

There is a new awareness that structured activity for school-aged children during out-of-school hours is absolutely critical to confronting many of the country's most disturbing social problems. The first national study of formal center-based programs that provide care for school-aged children found that children who attend quality programs have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, grades, and conduct in school compared to their peers who are not in programs. The results were almost exact in every community regardless of the environment. Beginning again at grade 4, students participating in after-school programs were almost nonexistent. The children who participated in formal after-school programs had higher academic and conduct grades in school and spent less time watching television than those in the other care arrangements.



Teen Approach, Inc.

It is clear that young people need some place positive to go other than school in an effort to stay off the streets and out of their empty homes. The benefits a quality, out-of-school program offered by Teen Approach, Inc. as studies have shown, are many. Our programs not only keep kids safer, but they also have the potential to change lives. They provide opportunities for all young adolescents to learn skills that are not usually acquired in school and experiences that can lead to lifelong interests or careers.

Your participation in the ***Take Time For Children Walk*** is allowing us to raise awareness and vital funds to continue very unique and enriching programs for children during a very critical stage in their lives. Please visit www.teenapproach.org/htm/programs_main.html to learn more about our programs.