Can you help me... How do I say “no” to my partner? Should I tell my parents that I’m gay? Am I too young to fall in love? How do I know if I’m ready to have sex? Where can I get condoms? What if I get my girl pregnant? How do I protect myself? Where can I get tested for STDs? What’s emergency contraception? What does it mean to “come out”? Is it okay to have oral sex? What is abstinence? Do people choose to be trans? Is there a right age to have sex? What is love? I’m pregnant... how do I decide what to do? What is gender identity? If I have an abortion, will I be able to get pregnant again? Am I normal? Are girls the only ones who worry about their body image? What is herpes? How does pregnancy happen? How do I protect myself?
Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

At Answer, we are committed to supplying resources, advocacy, training and solutions in support of honest and balanced sexuality education for young people in the United States. In 2006-07, Answer—part of the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University—provided sexuality education training to nearly 3,000 educators through our national Sexuality Education Training Initiative, and helped millions of teenagers through Sex, Etc., our teen-written sexual health Web site (Sexetc.org) and magazine.

Yet the vital and enduring story of our work this year is not understood through numbers. It is understood through people. The people whose questions we answered each and every day with honest, accurate information about sex, and the people on staff who answered their questions. At Answer, we understand that we are connected by the answers we seek and answers we provide: online, in the classroom, in the workshop and in the world outside. This Annual Report highlights those who dedicate themselves, every day, to “sex ed, honestly,” such as the Ohio educator changed by our training or the 15-year-old searching the Internet for answers.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce you to a new face at Answer: Beth Kraemer, our new director. She looks forward to working with and hearing from all of you. It has been an honor to work with Answer’s adults and teens and to know all of you. None of our efforts would be possible without your support.

Sincerely,

C. Danene Sorace

C. Danene Sorace
NAME: Beth Kraemer, Director

WHY SHE BECAME DIRECTOR: I feel passionately about the organization’s mission and love its programmatic approach.

HOW SHE GOT EDUCATED ABOUT SEX: Summer camp, books, popular culture, parents.

HOW SHE WISHES SHE GOT EDUCATED ABOUT SEX: While my parents were honest with me, I wish there had been somewhere I could go for questions I was too embarrassed to ask.

HER WORST TEEN SEX ED MOMENT: When the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, my children were young. I wanted someone to advise me about how to talk to them, but I didn’t know where to turn!

HER PERSONAL VISION FOR HER WORK IN SEX ED: Young people across the country will have the accurate, honest information they want and need about all aspects of sexual health through Answer’s programs.

HER FAVORITE MOTTO ABOUT SEX ED: Answer’s tag line, “Sex ed, honestly,” just says it all.
Training

When Jennifer Gallo, MPH, Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), found herself on a flight to our Training Institute in Sexual Health Education (TISHE), she was reeling. She had just taken a new sex educator job when she learned she had to leave for our residential institute. Gallo, 31, quickly realized she was among kindred spirits at TISHE.
“Everyone had a similar perspective on sex education. Answer’s trainers are phenomenal. They present factual information in a way that’s fun and informative. The staff is positive and approachable, and that is so important when you’re talking about sex.”

TISHE plants seeds around the country by training professionals who then go back to their schools, looking to us for future guidance and professional development for their entire staff. Gallo checks the TISHE listserv every day and incorporates updates into her lessons.
Twenty-nine-year old physical education teacher Shawn Rebman, CHES—who teaches sexuality education to middle-school students in Alloway, NJ—has also attended our trainings.

“Every time I leave an Answer workshop, I have a renewed sense of worth about what I teach, how I teach it and the support that’s available to me through Answer should I hit a bump in the road,” he says.

Educators and youth-serving professionals like Rebman and Gallo leave Answer trainings with valuable teaching skills and a menu of resources to help them educate youth about sex. Our Answer Web site—http://answer.rutgers.edu—provides them and parents with a wide spectrum of comprehensive resources to help them develop better lesson plans and facilitate honest discussions with young people about sex. What’s more, educators and youth-serving professionals can now register for our trainings through our online registration system.

To reach educators who cannot attend our trainings in person, we developed a new Online Professional Development Initiative. Our first online workshop—“Sexuality ABC’s (Abstinence, Birth Control and Condoms)”—will launch in early 2008. The course features video clips, podcasts and flash animations and was developed with assistance from a Rutgers University distance-learning expert.

“Every time I leave an Answer workshop, I have a renewed sense of worth about what I teach, how I teach it and the support that’s available to me through Answer.”

—Shawn Rebman
Sexuality Education Training Initiative 2007 Highlights

In 2006-07, Answer staff provided 80 workshops to nearly 3,000 teachers & other health professionals across the United States, via:

- **Open-Enrollment Workshops**—held across New Jersey and at Answer covering topics ranging from “teaching about family life in the early grades” to “sexuality on the Internet.”
- **In-Service Trainings**—held in school districts and agencies across the country on such topics as “sexuality education basics,” “sexual orientation” and “birth control.”
- **Presentations at National and Regional Conferences**—highlights include a presentation on “sex ed, online” at the American School Health Association annual conference.
- **Training Institute in Sexual Health Education (TISHE) 2007**—five days of intensive training for 38 participants from across the United States.

**NAME:** Jennifer Gallo, MPH, CHES, Health Education Specialist/Outreach Coordinator

**LOCATION:** Lorain, OH

**NUMBER OF YEARS ASSOCIATED WITH ANSWER:** 3

**HOW SHE CONNECTS WITH YOUTH CULTURE:** I listen to radio. You have to listen to song lyrics to understand what young people are exposed to. It gives you an edge [as an educator] and can open up good dialogue.

**HOW SHE GOT EDUCATED ABOUT SEX:** I taught myself. My mom said, “If you pick all the cherries off, there’ll be nothing to give your husband but an empty branch.”

**HER FAVORITE MOTTO ABOUT SEX ED:** “You can always learn.” I teach, but it doesn’t mean I know everything.
Like many teens, 15-year-old Jordan, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was searching online for information about sex when he found our award-winning teen sexual health Web site, Sex, Etc. (Sexetc.org). “I was looking for sex facts, and Sexetc.org came up. I was intrigued, so I became a member.” Jordan says he logs on to Sexetc.org several times a week. “The site’s facts and learning opportunities are mind-blowing. I have learned so much.”

Jordan found his high school sex ed class “outdated,” hasn’t talked to his parents, but has talked with his friends about sex (even that was “a little weird”). Sexetc.org gives teens like Jordan answers to questions they don’t feel comfortable asking others.

Millions of teens logged on to Sexetc.org to get sexual health information and to share their experiences. Our site is a trusted, valuable resource for teens who need honest, accurate information about sex. We gave teens answers to their sexual health questions in multifaceted and compelling ways this year. We hosted weekly online chats with experts; facilitated lively ongoing discussions in our moderated Forums, especially in the “Relationships” topic area; and provided answers to teens via our
“Get Tested” and “Ask the Experts” sections, which received 12,000 unique visitors per month.

Teens logged on to Sexetc.org with questions about how to practice safer sex and use birth control properly, what to do about pregnancy, how to get emergency contraception, how to come out as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and how to say “no” to sex when they’re not ready. The adult sexual health experts who answered teens' questions through our “Ask the Experts” section answered 1,900 questions this year and referred thousands of visitors to our “Frequently Asked Questions” about sex found in the 16 topic areas of Sexetc.org.
Teen visitors also wrote compelling personal stories about navigating sexual health (and life) through content-sharing opportunities on the site. Our dedicated teen editorial staffers and national contributors also wrote groundbreaking personal stories about sexual health.

Teen staffers Joshua Dickinson and Emily Duhovny completed their senior year of high school in ’06-’07 while producing content for Sex, Etc. Dickinson frequently calls the experience his “re-education.”

“If I come across other teens who did not have the best sex ed experience, I refer them to Answer. They gain a lifelong resource,” he says.

It was gratifying for Duhovny to know that she gave young people accurate information: “What we do matters. In high school, you hear a lot of myths.”

Duhovny feels that her generation is “exposed to a lot, but that doesn’t make us bad kids.”
It just requires that we be better educated.”

Alex Medina, Web associate for Sexetc.org, remembers feeling disappointed with his sex ed class.

“I wish I hadn’t been afraid to ask questions, especially being gay,” he says. “I didn’t see myself represented. You can’t teach sex ed from a straight perspective and reach everyone.”

Today, Medina is excited to see Sexetc.org “become the destination for anything regarding teen sexuality.”

This year, Sex, Etc. magazine covered such topics as talking to parents about sex, teen advocacy, sex ed resources and teen relationships.
Sex, Etc.: Why Wonder? 2007

Answer’s award-winning Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project consists of our:

- **Sex, Etc. Magazine**—more than 36,000 copies of each issue are sent to 600 subscribers across the country.
- **Sexetc.org Web Site**—2007 Webby Awards “Official Honoree,” over seven million unique visitors this past year.
- **National Strategic Partnerships**—with such media outlets as MTV, Seventeen magazine and gURL.com.

A highlight of the year was our I’M TABOO marketing campaign: Teens were asked how a culture that censors sexual health information makes them feel “taboo.” Over 100 teens submitted compelling written and videotaped responses; most felt “taboo” simply because they want to talk about sex with parents and peers but don’t know where or how to do so.

NAME: Joshua Dickinson, ’06–’07 Sex, Etc. teen editorial staff

LOCATION: Ithaca, NY

LENGTH OF TIME WITH ANSWER: 2 years

HOW HE DESCRIBES HIS GENERATION: Teens are a lot more outgoing than previous generations. Many are upset with the sex ed in classrooms today and looking for a change.

HIS BEST SEX ED MOMENT: During the Sex, Etc. staff orientation, when we passed around a wooden penis and a plastic vulva and each said the words “penis” and “vulva” to get comfortable saying those terms.

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* Includes prepaid FY08 Web programming contract fees.

This is not an audited financial statement. Answer, a component of the Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, shares the Rutgers University Foundation’s 501(c)(3) status and its expenditures are monitored by Rutgers’ Division of Grants and Contracts Accounting.
Acknowledgments

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* Members of the Our Children, Our Future Giving Society, who have made a commitment to Answer’s future

These names have been carefully reviewed; however, if your name has been misspelled, omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know.
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NAME: Elisa Rosen, National Advisory Board Member

LOCATION: Princeton, NJ

LENGTH OF TIME ASSOCIATED WITH ANSWER: 1 year

WHY SHE GOT INVOLVED: I truly believe in Answer’s mission.

HOW SHE GOT EDUCATED ABOUT SEX: When I was eight years old, my parents gave me a book and said, “Go read it.” I was properly mortified.

HER FAVORITE MOTTO ABOUT SEX ED: Comprehensive sex ed in a safe environment.

HER PERSONAL VISION FOR HER WORK AT ANSWER: It would be amazing if Answer became a household name.