

Who We Are

Answer, formerly known as the Network for Family Life Education, is a leading national organization dedicated to providing and promoting comprehensive adolescent sexuality education. For the past 25 years, Answer, based in the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University, has been committed to supplying resources, advocacy, training and solutions in support of honest and balanced sexuality education for young people and the adults in their lives. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we also mark our evolution with a name that fully reflects this commitment to provide the answers that young people want and need to lead productive, healthy lives.

Our Beliefs. We believe that knowledge about human sexuality is helpful, not harmful, and that young people offer an essential and unique perspective. We believe that teens are responsible decision makers, and that all young people benefit when parents and other adults work in partnership with them. We acknowledge and respect diversity and believe that speaking out in support of sex ed can make a difference.

Our Mission. Knowing that everyone benefits from a sexually literate and informed society, Answer's mission is to be the recognized leader in ensuring high-quality sexuality education for young people by preparing adults to work effectively with youth and by amplifying teen voices regarding sexuality and related U.S. policy. We accomplish this through two primary programs:

- **The Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project**, which includes our newly redesigned *Sex, Etc.* national magazine and our innovative Web site at www.sexetc.org. Both of these sexual health resources are written by teens, for teens.
- **The Sexuality Education Training Initiative**, which provides training, resources and technical assistance to teachers and professionals who work with young people.

Our Reach. Answer reaches millions of teens every year with honest, accurate sexual health information and resources. Our *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org, receives 35,000 unique visitors every day. We train more than 3,000 adult educators and youth-serving professionals each year, who in turn educate youth with potentially life-saving sexual health information.

Our Accomplishments. Answer positively impacts the lives of millions of teens throughout the United States. By maximizing the impact of teen voices and training thousands of health professionals who work with young people, we dramatically improve the way youth receive sexuality education in the U.S. In recognition of our efforts to involve teens in the national dialogue about teen pregnancy prevention and sexuality education, Answer has received honors from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Advocates for Youth. National press coverage of our programs has come from ABC, CBS, NBC, *Seventeen*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The New York Times*, *Teen Vogue* and other print, broadcast and online media.

Our Future. As Answer looks to the future, we seek to unite young people and adults in support of honest sexuality education. Together, we will continue to provide the answers that adolescents want and need to make responsible, informed decisions about sexuality.

How We Began

Answer, formerly known as the Network for Family Life Education, was largely shaped during the 20-year tenure of Susan N. Wilson, who currently serves as its senior advisor.

Ms. Wilson's strong interest in sexuality education began when she served as a member and vice president of the New Jersey State Board of Education from 1977 to 1981. During a presentation on teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, she raised her hand and asked at what age young people should learn about their bodies. That simple question ultimately became a turning point for sexual health education throughout the state.

Ms. Wilson was asked to chair a subcommittee on family life education. As she testified before the state legislature, worked with a coalition of supporters and appeared before local and national media for the next several years, Ms. Wilson became an instrumental force behind a state mandate requiring family life education in all New Jersey public schools.

In 1981, Ms. Wilson helped found the Network for Family Life Education, and she served as its executive coordinator from 1984 to 2004. From its inception, the Network provided professional development opportunities in sexuality education for teachers and other youth-serving professionals. In the mid-nineties, the organization began offering sexuality education directly to teens, using the "voices" of teens themselves. In 1994, it launched the *Sex, Etc.* newsletter (now magazine), written by teens, for teens. In 1999, the *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org, debuted.

Over the years, Answer has grown from a state organization to a national one and has received significant honors and media attention. More importantly, it has provided valuable sexuality education resources for millions of teenagers and the adults who serve them. The organization celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2006, and it continues its commitment—in name, mission and resources—to provide the answers that young people seek about sexuality.

Answer's Sexuality Education Training Initiative

Answer, formerly known as the Network for Family Life Education, has been helping educators create meaningful classroom experiences regarding sexuality for more than twenty years through our Sexuality Education Training Initiative. Each year, this program provides more than 3,000 sexual health educators and youth-serving professionals with the tools they need to openly and honestly discuss information about sexuality with young people and effectively respond to their questions. These resources include:

- **Workshops.** We offer more than 30 open-enrollment workshops a year for K–12 teachers and youth-serving professionals. Topics include puberty, love and relationships, oral sex, sexual orientation, self-esteem, sexual violence, abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases and information about sexuality targeted to a variety of grade levels. Sample titles include “Baby Steps: Teaching About Family Life in Grades K-2” and “Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Teaching about Puberty in Grades 5-6.” Our trainers also make presentations on adolescent sexual health issues at numerous national and regional conferences.
- **In-Service Programs.** Answer trainers travel to New Jersey agencies or school districts to facilitate these workshops, which are tailored to appropriate grade levels and specific needs. The programs are designed to help professionals meet the Core Content Standard in Family Life & Sexuality Education mandated for grades K–12 in New Jersey.
- **Training Institute for Sexual Health Education (TISHE).** At this annual intensive residential summer institute, staff and participants live together for five days—creating an immediate and concentrated learning community—to address the depth and breadth of sexuality education. Answer trainers use both whole (plenary) and small-group workshops to ensure that participants understand the content and to rehearse the skills they need to deliver that content. Attended by educators from across the United States, the intensive training experience combines informative programming and skills-building activities. More information can be found on the TISHE Web site at www.tishe.org.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact Todd Slawsky, Answer's training coordinator, at 732-445-7929, ext. 237.

Answer's Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project

Teens across the country tell us they feel they have no one to whom they can turn for accurate and honest answers about sexuality. Responding to this need, Answer developed the Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project. This resource uses the power of teen-to-teen communication and positive peer pressure to provide millions of teens with a healthy outlook on sexuality, help them reduce their risky behaviors and give them the information they need to make responsible decisions about sex. The Project's components include:

- **The Sex, Etc. National Magazine.** Written by the *Sex, Etc.* teen editorial staff with assistance from national contributors, our award-winning, newly redesigned national magazine covers numerous sexual health topics. The staff brainstorms ideas and writes stories with fact-checking and editing assistance from Answer staff. Published three times a year since 1994, the magazine is available by subscription and distributed through schools, clinics, health centers, libraries and community organizations. Each issue comes with a Discussion Guide for adults who work with teens.
- **Our Web Site, Sexetc.org.** With more than 35,000 unique visitors per day, the *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org, is one of the most popular online sexual health sites for teens. Newly redesigned in 2006, the site features 16 topic areas plus the following:
 - Stories written by the *Sex, Etc.* teen editorial staff and national contributors
 - "Ask the Experts" section where teens can receive answers to their questions
 - "Take Action" section where teens can learn to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education
 - Spotlight on teens who are making a difference
 - Weekly chats, Forums and a blog
 - A glossary of 400 sexual health terms

Sexetc.org was honored with the 2005 FREDDIE award for Adolescent Health in the annual preeminent health & medical media competition from MediMedia.

- **National Youth Media Partnerships.** To extend our reach to a broader audience of young people, *Sex, Etc.* partners with some of the top media outlets in the nation. We are a national partner with *Seventeen* magazine on its "Love and Sex" surveys, and MTV/Kaiser Family Foundation on its award-winning *think: Sexual Health* campaign (formerly *Fight for Your Rights: Protect Yourself*). Our teen editors write monthly columns for the campaign, featured online at www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/sexual_health.

Together, these resources not only respond to young people's critical need for comprehensive sexuality information, but also help them feel dignity about their attitudes and beliefs regarding sexuality.

What Do Teens and Adults Say about Sex, Etc.?

Teens Say...

“I’m 16 and I’ve been thinking about having sex with my boyfriend of one-and-a-half years, but after reading the information about sex on your site, I’ve decided to wait until I’m really ready (marriage!?). Thank you so much for this site! It truthfully answers questions I would feel uncomfortable asking someone face-to-face.”

—*Evelyn, 16, Oregon*

“Thank you for your story. I had never heard about HPV. I did not know that you can get cervical cancer from this STD. I didn’t know that you can get this even if you and your partner use a condom, so thank you very much.” —*Tangelena, 18, Tennessee*

“Your site does a great job of answering FAQs and explaining anything and everything teens need to know about sex. It’s very helpful and I am sending this site to a few of my close friends, because I feel that it’s very important to learn anything you can as early as possible. THANK YOU!” —*Leslie, 17, New Jersey*

“Your Web site is very interesting. As a guy, it’s sort of embarrassing asking your parents questions about sex. And in 7th grade, it’s a lot of peer pressure, because I already know about 20 classmates who aren’t virgins, and I have three friends, girls my age, who have been raped. It’s tough in this world, and I thank you for making this site.” —*Nathan, 16, Washington*

Adults Say...

“Your teens are doing much better than almost any adults in speaking to the real needs of adolescents. Instead of adult moralizing, *Sex, Etc.* demonstrates the ability of adolescents to think responsibly about values and behaviors. It’s unique—a perfect resource for education in a democracy.” —*Peggy Brick, Sexuality Education Consultant, New Jersey*

“This is a very good Web site. I am a life skills teacher and always looking for new resources to use in the classroom. Your site is user friendly and the information is very practical. The stories are an added bonus, and I’m sure my students will relate to the teenagers in them. Thanks a great deal.” —*Tania, Life Skills Teacher, Alabama*

“Your Web site is a wonderful resource for teens who are interested in these topics but feel overwhelmed by all the information out there on the Internet. Having a site that is maintained by teens gives other teens a sense of security about the information provided. It also helps them feel secure, knowing that there are others out there with the same problems or questions. You’re doing a great job! Thank you!” —*Greta, Sexuality Education Teacher, Illinois*

“When I shared *Sex, Etc.* with my tenth-grade health classes, the students asked me a million questions, and some other students in the school came to see if they could read a copy in their study halls! *Sex, Etc.* is a wonderful tool in the classroom and beyond.” —*Sandy Kaleno, Health Educator, Pennsylvania*

Recent National and Local Press

“Sexual Lyrics Prompt Teens to Have Sex,” by Lindsey Tanner. Associated Press, August 7, 2006. This AP story on hip-hop lyrics and its effect on teen sexual behavior quoted *Sex, Etc.* teen editor Natasha Ramsey and appeared in more than 200 online and print media outlets nationwide.

“Facts of Life,” by Laurie Granieri. Home News Tribune (New Jersey), March 26, 2006.
A feature story on sex education that examined how parents and teens can comfortably have “the talk” about sex and featured two *Sex, Etc.* teen editors and Nora Gelperin, M.Ed., director of training and education at Answer.

“Just Don’t Do It!” by Katy Kelly. U.S. News & World Report, October 17, 2005.
A cover story on the national sexuality education debate that included quotes and photos of *Sex, Etc.* teen editors.

The 411: Teens & Sex: A Katie Couric NBC Special, January 26, 2005.
Sex, Etc. teen editor Kameron Collins appeared in this hour-long primetime special to discuss comprehensive sexuality education and teen sexual health and behavior. The special highlighted his work on the *Sex, Etc.* magazine and Web site, www.sexetc.org.

“Sex Ed Without Birds, Bees or Even Storks,” by Chris Hedges. The New York Times, January 20, 2005.
A “Public Lives” profile of Susan N. Wilson, former executive coordinator of the Network for Family Life Education, now known as Answer.

“Behind Fall in Pregnancy: A New Culture of Restraint,” by Nina Bernstein. The New York Times, March 7, 2004.
This cover story quoted former Network executive coordinator Susan N. Wilson, who stated, “The stress for this generation [of young people] comes not just from the risks of sex in the age of AIDS...but also from the challenge of maintaining relationships.”

“Risky Business,” by Kara Jesella. Teen Vogue, May 2004.
This feature story on the sexuality education debate in the United States highlighted the *Sex, Etc.* teen editorial board, national magazine and Web site.

Answer Staff Biographies

C. DANENE SORACE, M.P.P.

Director

C. Danene Sorace, M.P.P., became director of Answer, formerly known as the Network for Family Life Education, in January 2005 and supervises all aspects of its programs, finances and staff. She joined the organization in 1998 and held the publications coordinator, assistant program manager and program manager positions. As program manager, she supervised all staff and consultants, managed a \$1.2 million budget, and led the annual fundraising operation. Prior to joining Answer, Ms. Sorace worked as teen program coordinator for the Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania and director of the Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Ms. Sorace holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She serves as board member for the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, and is involved in numerous community activities, including an annual week-long Habitat for Humanity youth build. A native of Pennsylvania, Ms. Sorace attended Albright College in Reading, where she graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychobiology and as the recipient of the annual Psychobiology Prize.

NORA GELPERIN, M.Ed.

Director of Training and Education

Nora Gelperin, M.Ed., oversees Answer's Sexuality Education Training Initiative. She is also founder of the organization's annual Training Institute in Sexual Health Education (TISHE), and a sexuality expert for the weekly live chats on the *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org. Ms. Gelperin develops, markets and conducts training workshops for teachers and community agency staff in New Jersey and throughout the nation. Previously, Ms. Gelperin was an adjunct instructor of Human Sexuality at Temple University and Montclair State University, and a community educator with the Planned Parenthoods of Western Washington and Greater Northern New Jersey. She earned her Master of Education in School Health Education degree from Temple University. Ms. Gelperin has written curricula for the Teen PEP manual, Discussion Guides for *Sex, Etc.* and numerous articles on adolescent sexual health.

RANA E. BARAR, M.P.H.

Program Manager

Rana E. Barar, M.P.H., oversees all planning, implementation and monitoring aspects of Answer's national Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project, which is comprised of the *Sex, Etc.* magazine and Web site, www.sexetc.org. She is also responsible for planning and executing the integrated marketing strategy for the magazine, Web site, strategic partnerships and campaigns. Prior to joining Answer, Ms. Barar was senior program officer for the Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) Program at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. She joined Columbia University as an administrative coordinator for the Law & Policy Project in 2000. For the Law & Policy Project, she worked extensively with the director and staff attorneys and coordinated the activities of the Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal

Health. After finishing her M.P.H. in population and family health in 2006, Ms. Barar took over the administrative management of the AMDD Program, specifically focusing on strategic planning and launching AMDD's new look and Web site. She has a strong background in international relations, which has been enhanced by her substantial experience in Europe, Russia and Africa.

JUDY LONG

Director of Development

As Answer's director of development, Judy Long is responsible for implementing the organization's fundraising strategy for foundations and individual donors. A graduate of DePauw University and a published author, Ms. Long brings strong writing and editing skills to the position from her years as a children's book editor in New York and as a grant writer. Her prior development experience includes fundraising for the Morris County (NJ) Park Commission and, most recently, for the New Jersey Historical Society.

ELLEN PAPAIZIAN MACBAIN

Senior Editor/Director of Media Relations and Strategic Partnerships

Ellen Papazian MacBain is senior editor of the Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project's main components—the *Sex, Etc.* national magazine and Web site, www.sexetc.org. She also directs media relations for Answer and manages its strategic partnerships with MTV, gURL.com, Scenarios USA and other national youth media outlets. Prior to joining Answer, Ms. MacBain spent nearly three years as associate managing editor of *Ms.* magazine. She was also a freelance researcher for *Ms.*, *Out* and *Working Woman* magazines. A graduate of New College at Hofstra University, Ms. MacBain was granted their 2001 Young Alumnus Award. In 2007, she will receive a master's degree in English with a Women's and Gender Studies concentration from Rutgers University-Newark.

LUCINDA HOLT, M.A.

Managing Editor

Lucinda Holt, M.A., manages *Sex, Etc.*'s teen editorial staff and national contributors and edits the *Sex, Etc.* national magazine, the *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org, and the teen editors' column for MTV's *think: Sexual Health* campaign. Prior to joining Answer, Ms. Holt worked as a freelance editor. She has also worked for Condé Nast Publications and such youth organizations as Prep for Prep and the Columbia University Liberty Partnership Program. Ms. Holt graduated *magna cum laude* from Amherst College and holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology degree from Columbia University.

SILYN SOLOMON

Donor Development Manager

Silyn Solomon oversees the individual gifts and prospective donor aspect of fund development for Answer and coordinates national circulation of the *Sex, Etc.* magazine. With six years of marketing experience, Ms. Solomon has held previous roles as the Press Marketing Associate for IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and, more recently, Transaction Publishers, an academic book publishing company. In the latter position, she managed direct mail pieces, press releases, book reviews, print advertisements, trade shows and special sales and promotions. She is a graduate of Rutgers University's Cook College and holds a B.A. in Communications.

STACIE STEINBOCK, M.Ed.

Online Content Manager

A graduate of Macalester College, Stacie Steinbock manages and oversees Web site content for the *Sex, Etc.* Web site, www.sexetc.org, including the “Ask the Experts” section, where she answers teens’ emergency questions. She also manages the site’s online advocacy initiatives, weekly chats, Forums, Blog and video section. To ensure medical accuracy, she also coordinates the Medical Advisory Board and revises all site content, including the “Frequently Asked Questions” and “Sex Terms” sections. Prior to joining Answer, Ms. Steinbock worked for the Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where she managed cross-cultural educational programs and developed her translation skills. Prior to her efforts in Mexico, Ms. Steinbock worked for the American Refugee Committee and served in Bosnia/Croatia where, as a volunteer grant writer, she secured grants from USAID that allowed for the rebuilding of houses and playgrounds in the hardest hit areas of Bosnia. She holds a Master of Education in Human Sexuality degree from Widener University.

TODD SLAWSKY, M.Ed.

Training Coordinator

Todd Slawsky coordinates the logistics of Answer’s Sexuality Education Training Initiative, which trains more than 3,000 participants per year. He is also a resident director for Cook College, where he promotes a secure environment for college residents and conducts a series of educational programs to teach residents about topics relating to sexuality education, safety, study habits and communication. Mr. Slawsky has also worked as the assistant director of the Rutgers Student Legal Information Center, where he managed a staff to aid Rutgers students and employees with legally related issues and developed programs to educate students about the most common types of legal problems. He holds a Master of Education in Learning and Teaching degree from Rutgers University’s Graduate School of Education.