

## The Turn • Around Agenda Fact Sheet

### Mission

To rebuild communities from the inside out with comprehensive, faith-based programs and community partnerships designed to transform the lives of urban youth and families.

### History

In July 1985, Dr. Tony Evans established Alternative Community Development Services, Inc. d.b.a. Project Turn • Around (PTA), now called The Turn • Around Agenda (TTA). Since its inception, TTA's program initiatives in Dallas and parts of Ft. Worth have addressed the critical needs of at-risk youth and families through the provision of school-based programs, after-school and summer activities, technology and education, pregnancy and other human needs services. A contributing factor to TTA's effectiveness is its ability to mobilize already existing institutions in the community to create long-term, measurable change.



### Public Schools Outreach

Promotes healthy school and home environments by providing a myriad of services designed to bridge the gap between the school, students and parents; thereby, maximizing student success. The thrust of the program is to find solutions to the academic and social needs of high-risk students and their families. Relationships are developed with students through a combination of activities that include:

- **School-based Mentoring** that offers an array of activities for pro-social development, creating a sense of belonging among family, community and peers.
- **Life Skills Education** addressing abstinence, anger, school dropout and substance abuse issues.
- **Two Annual Back-to-School Rallies** that bring together thousands of students for education and entertainment, promoting drug-free, abstinence, no violence, and stay-in-school messages.
- **An Athletic League and Summer Program** that uses sports, recreation and life skills education to build healthy minds, bodies and spirits in the young people served.
- **High School Heroes** a program that gives high school student leaders an opportunity to inspire elementary and middle-school youth to stay in school and reach their highest potential.
- **Summer Employment Opportunities** for youth who have a history of successful participation in TTA programs.
- **A State-of-the-Art Youth Center** that serves as a neighborhood hub for a variety of social and entertainment activities for young people.

Family support services give parents and other family members the opportunity to take advantage of TTA programs in Human Needs Assistance, the Technology and Education Institute, and the Family Care Pregnancy Center.

### Selected Accomplishments

- Since 1985, over 200,000 urban youth and families have experienced life-changing situations through the impact of TTA's programs.
- Working partnerships with over 65 Dallas county public schools, giving thousands of urban youth and their families access to a variety of educational, social and other support services throughout the year.
- The Dallas Independent School District named TTA as the Volunteer Organization of the Year in 2006, which is the Superintendent's Award.

### Local & National Leaders Say

*The Turn • Around Agenda is a complete program... This program is a beacon for Dallas. And this program is a model for the nation.*

**George W. Bush,**  
**43rd President of the United States**

*The Dallas Independent School District is fortunate to have The Turn • Around Agenda as a partner and resource in our schools. Their dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly with our students, parents and faculty, providing life-enriching programs that maximize student success. This church and public school partnership works and serves as a model program in our community and around the country.*

**Dr. Michael Hinojosa,**  
**Superintendent, Dallas ISD**

*I have known Tony Evans as a friend for a number of years and have been a long-time supporter of his spiritual and social outreach programs. Tony's vision of connecting spiritual development to social responsibility has resulted in thousands of changed lives in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area through The Turn • Around Agenda and throughout our great nation with the National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative.*

**Mr. Norm Miller,**  
**President, Interstate Batteries**

## Human Needs Assistance

Addresses pressing issues such as inadequate nutrition, housing, and clothing that often prevent individuals from taking advantage of life-changing opportunities that can impact their welfare. As such, basic physical needs must be met before people can move beyond their present circumstances to act on decisions that will improve their futures. To help in this process, TTA has established support services to assist individuals and families whose basic needs are challenged. These services include:

- **A Food Pantry**
- **A Resale Store** with new or gently used items such as clothing, home accessories and furniture.
- **A Housing Assistance Program**
- **Crisis Intervention**
- **A Holiday Event** that distributes food baskets, toys and provides health checks to needy families.

## The Technology and Education Institute

Gives hundreds of disadvantaged individuals access to technology in education, computer training and certification. Census data indicate that poverty and low education attainment are factors that limit access and use of information and communication technologies. The Technology and Education Institute, an authorized Microsoft and Adobe testing center, integrates a variety of software applications that teach and enhance skills into the following programs:

- **Supplemental Education Program** that uses technology to address academic deficiencies in reading, language arts and math for public school youth.
- **Pre-GED/GED** that provides adults with the necessary knowledge and test-taking skills to pass the GED examination.
- **Adult Literacy** that teaches basic reading and writing skills to adults with little or no reading ability.
- **Computer Training and Certification** that offers adults in-depth, high-quality computer training in a variety of software applications, including certification programs in Microsoft® Office, IC3, and Adobe® .
- **Conversational Spanish** designed for students who have little or no formal Spanish speaking skills. The course is progressive and will enable students to grasp the theory behind the Spanish language as well as increase the students' Spanish-speaking skills.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)** that prepares Spanish-only speaking individuals to achieve proficiency in English, qualifying these students to transition into the Adult Literacy program.

## The Family Care Pregnancy Center

Offers long-term, holistic solutions to eradicate an epidemic that's destroying minority communities across the country. Unlike traditional pregnancy centers that only concentrate on the immediate effects of unplanned pregnancies, the Family Care Pregnancy Center tackles the numerous needs of the woman, boyfriend, husband and family members. This is done through a provision of life-changing services that advances the spiritual, social, health and economic well-being of individuals and families. The Center offers the following services:

- **Clinical Services** that include pregnancy tests, ultrasound, prenatal education, STD and HIV information/counseling.
- **Counseling** in crisis intervention and lay and professional counseling for individuals, couples and families.
- **Support Services** that include post-natal aftercare, family support groups, mentoring, material needs assistance, adoption/foster care information/counseling, and maternity home assistance.
- **Education Programs** in parenting skills as well as life skills training in sexual abstinence, anger management, healthy relationships, communication and spiritual growth.
- **Community Education and Awareness** that offers seminars, workshops, and presentations to local churches, schools and community agencies on pro-life and related topics.
- **Vocational Services** in adult literacy, GED, career development, job placement assistance and computer training.

