

- **Call** upon parents, guardians and loved ones to be good role models. Share with them the important role they play in influencing the lives and attitudes of children. If necessary, *demand* they be good parents by being *present* in their lives. All too often some young people have been forced to take on the role of parenting younger siblings when parents or other family members have been unable to do so. Sometimes young people must take in the leadership role in displaying positive family and community values.
- **Demand** that parents, guardians and/or other caregivers take control of their households and provide the nurturing and discipline that children need from the earliest ages. To do so earns the respect of their children.
- **Show** respect for parents, guardians and other adults in your household so that they can trust children and youth to make responsible decisions. Lead by example and show younger siblings how to treat parents respectfully, so that when they become older, they will also be trusted to make good decisions.
- **Interact** with other youth in a respectful way to get respect in return.
- **Lead**, don't follow! Be strong and act independently. Young people should not try to be what *others* want them to be, unless those goals are positive. Far too many youths follow other youth who exhibit serious negative behaviors such as getting involved in unhealthy, and possibly criminal, actions. Be a role model to younger children and encourage them to achieve positive goals, as well.
- **Reject** the mindset that everyone else is the cause of ones' negative life circumstances. This kind of attitude encourages one to play the role of victim and fosters feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, and not having the ability to change ones' life situation. Understand that one *does* have the *personal* power to change life's' circumstances. Develop and adopt the faith to do so.
- **Utilize** ones' talents and skills for positive purposes. It is in ones' own best interest to pursue legal avenues to make money. Recognize that being involved in drugs and in other illegal activities contributes to the breakdown of the family and the community, imprisonment and even death. Remember that short term money will likely lead to short time lives!
- **Encourage** ones' peers to look at legal employment as the preferred lifestyle, one that should be sought by *all* members of the community. Discourage them from continuing illegal and criminal behaviors. Help them understand if they continue they will be forced to suffer the consequences.
- **Influence** ones' girlfriend or boyfriend in a positive manner. In many instances both young men and young women negatively influence, and even compete for authority, in their relationships. Be supportive of doing the —right thing. There is more value to a relationship when both parties wait before taking it the next level.
- **Delay** sexual involvement. Both boys and young men *and* girls and young women should place greater value on their bodies. Some girls and some young women believe they need to be sexually involved to maintain a relationship, which may include getting pregnant. Some young men believe that some young women use sex just to —trapll a man. Moreover, in some situations, because of the way girls and young women present