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## **ZOE'S PLACE NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release  
End date: ongoing

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### **Volunteer Mentors Needed for Teenage Mothers**

Zoe's Place Inc., an organization working with Bergen County pregnant teens and teenage mothers, is now recruiting adult female volunteers to mentor these girls. Zoe's Mentors trains, screens and provides ongoing supervision for volunteer mentors. Zoe's is the only program that specifically targets this very vulnerable population of girls, providing direct services, one-on-one support and a pregnant teen/teen mom peer support group.

"No one ever told me how great it is that I got my G.E.D." said one teen mom who asked for a Zoe's mentor. "For many young women," adds Zoe's Executive Director Judy Forman, "a mentor can sometimes be the one person who gives a young girl like this one a true belief in herself and in the life she can put in place for herself. Someone just has to care enough to make the time. It's an opportunity to 'pay it forward' as you share your own skills and life experiences with a young girl who has missed out on positive role modeling and connections to a caring adult."

Zoe's Mentors program is unique among mentoring programs because mentors can choose to work with one specific teen or join a pool of mentors who are "on call" to provide support as needed to girls who have not been matched with a Zoe's mentor.

Zoe's Mentors provides an interactive two-session training program that addresses such topics as obstacles and concerns the girls face, good communication and listening skills, mentor boundaries and links to community resources. All Zoe's Mentors must cooperate with a comprehensive screening process which includes fingerprinting and a driver license check and once matched are required to submit monthly reports of mentoring activities.

The next training class will be held on Tuesday, May 19 and Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 PM at 6 Forest Avenue in Paramus (the office of Bergen County United Way). Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to register for the May program please contact Judy Forman at 973-458-1007 or [jforman@zoescapeinc.org](mailto:jforman@zoescapeinc.org)

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