

Teaching with *Teen Times*

November/December 2009

Teen Times is a valuable tool for use in Family and Consumer Sciences classes. The articles in this month's issue can be used in class in many ways, including:

- Use the "Model the Way" activity on page 4 to help students clarify the values that are important to them. After they have completed it individually, engage them in a class discussion on what values are most important for leaders to have.
- Read "Inspire a Shared Vision" on page 5 and ask students to write a draft of their own vision in the space provided. Have students pair up with a classmate to share their visions. Take it a step further and have each student write out a list of goals that could help them achieve their vision.
- After reading "Facing Family Challenges" on pages 6–7, divide the class into four groups. Assign each group the task of developing a role-play that would act out the challenge presented and a possible solution to it. When groups are ready, have each group present its role-play to the class, then engage students in a discussion of the challenge. What other ways could the situation presented be handled?
- After reading "Putting Families First" on page 8, brainstorm a list of all the ways your chapter works to build stronger families. Write an article for your local newspaper detailing the list you create.
- After reading the Alumni Corner interview with Jeremie Giacoia, engage students in a class discussion using this quote as the starting point: "the most hurtful things that have ever been said to me were said at meetings, by other members, by people I considered friends." What did Jeremie mean by this comment? How are people sometimes thoughtlessly cruel to others? What steps can we take to make sure that everyone feels accepted and welcome in our chapter? In our school?
- Ask students to write their own responses to the *Teen Times* Asks question, "What steps can teens take to succeed in today's society?"
- Use the "Modern Family" Quick Quiz on pg. 16 as the starting point for a class discussion on the changing American family. Brainstorm a list of ideas of activities your chapter can do to strengthen the families in your community.
- Read "Chapters in Action" on pages 14–15, then have a designated student write a description of one of your chapter's successful projects to submit for a future issue of *Teen Times*. E-mail projects and photos to David DuVal at dduval@fcclainc.org.

Resources

Check out these resources that focus on the family:

The Magic of the Family Meal—Excellent article from *Time* magazine on the importance of family meals.
<http://bit.ly/BDkn5>

Share the Table—Make the promise to improve the time you spend with your family around the table and Barilla will donate \$1 to Meals on Wheels Association of America for each person who promises to "Share the Table." You'll also gain access to table games, recipes, menu planners and more.
www.sharethetable.com

Family Dinner Games—Find samples of games to play at the table.
www.familieswithpurpose.com/family-dinner-games.html

Parental Involvement Pledge—Use this tool for National Parental Involvement Day, Nov. 19, and beyond as a way of recruiting volunteers in your school.
www.projectappleseed.org/npid.html



