

# AMTC NEWS



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AMTC & Associates Newsletter

[www.amtcassociates.com](http://www.amtcassociates.com)

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## It's All About Relationships

The success of any business is based on relationships. We work well with our clients by taking the time to understand their needs, drives and goals. These characteristics are essential to creating and maintaining partnerships. This is what AMTC & Associates has strived for during the past 20 years, and AMTC is grateful to everyone we have served. I am equally grateful to AMTC's amazing staff, two of whom I have been associated with for all 20 years!

When I look at our current clients, my relationship with most of them began between 2004 and 2005. Our newest client was added in 2011. These long-standing partnerships are a testament to our collaborative spirit, and I am inspired to continue our work together.

In this issue we profile a partnership with Peacemakers Family Center. It is a nonprofit organization that was founded by Trinity Church and headquartered in Miami, Florida. We initially collaborated in 2005 with pregnancy prevention programs, and then expanded in 2006 to include healthy relationship and marriage education. Currently AMTC provides evaluation and performance measurement services for three Peacemakers grants. AMTC and Peacemakers partners in providing services in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Harlem, New York.

Peacemakers performs critical work and has tremendous impact in high-need communities. They continue to build upon their successes by expanding into other parts of the country. AMTC aims to help Peacemakers sustain and grow their capacity as they grow into other communities. Peacemakers has set exceptionally high goals and they are always up for the challenge!

I invite you to read about Peacemakers in this newsletter's first article. Also, please welcome two new AMTC associates, Jerome Brody and Jackie Woods. Both are Evaluation Associates. A brief introduction is provided in this issue.

In upcoming newsletters, we look forward to highlighting more of our partners. All of our partners inspire us, and we hope to highlight each of them so our readers can learn more about their work. We deeply appreciate the trust that our partners have placed in AMTC & Associates.

As always, if there is anything AMTC can do to help grow your organization please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are deeply grateful to all our stakeholders and look forward to fostering new relationships.

Angela Turner, Principal



Angela Turner,  
AMTC Principal

**“Peacemakers has set exceptionally high goals and they are always up for the challenge!”**

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## Peacemakers and AMTC Grow Together

For over 15 years, AMTC & Associates has had the privilege to work with Peacemakers Family Center in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Peacemakers provides an array of programs and services to the community, with its headquarters inside Miami's Trinity Church. The goal of Peacemakers is to promote self-sufficiency rather than provide a handout. It provides an array of programs and services. To name only a few, Peacemakers offers: Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Children of Inmates, AmeriCorps and summer camp. Teen Pregnancy Prevention curriculum is delivered in public school classrooms, in foster care facilities and in other settings, including health fairs. The Children of Inmates program connects an incarcerated parent with his or her child. As a Volunteer Florida AmeriCorps site, students are able to attend college through education awards. Peacemakers also has a proud tradition with its own summer camp that incorporates a nationally-known model called the Children Defense Fund Freedom School.

Since Peacemakers began 18 years ago, it has experienced tremendous growth. In 1999, Peacemakers was working from a financial deficit. Since then, \$40,000,000 has come into the Peacemakers Family Center through competitive funding. It has been well deserved. Since inception, it has helped over 50,000 individuals.<sup>1</sup> It has expanded to eight affiliates in six states with more sites on the horizon.<sup>2</sup> Its most recent expansion is in Harlem, New York.

Linda Freeman was a key founder of Peacemakers. She is the Executive Director and one of the associate pastors of Trinity Church: "One of the things that has made Peacemakers great and stay great is grit. Your intention is that no matter what is thrown at me, you don't give up. For me it's not just a job. And for the people who are a part of Peacemakers Family Center it's not just a job and that makes all the difference. You have to be the best. My goal is to win."

Members of Peacemakers live this attitude because they understand a lot is at stake. They serve communities that experience a high rate of at-risk behaviors and birth rates. Peacemakers works to change the tide. As an example, Peacemakers affects youth by delivering evidenced-based models: Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP), Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) and Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). Peacemakers utilizes two models, TPP and PREP, in its Miami-Dade County location and uses SRAE with its center in Harlem, New York.



**Linda Freeman,  
Executive Director of  
Peacemakers Family  
Center**

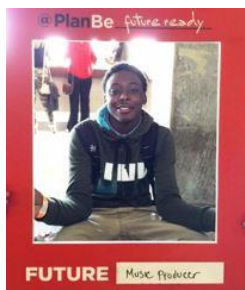


**Crystal Agnew,  
Deputy Director of  
Peacemakers Family  
Center**

**Peacemaker's #FutureReady campaign is about inspiring teens to consider their futures so they make better decisions today. It is a message that counters the popular, "Live for today," and "YOLO" (You only live once) mindset that many teens have adopted.**



**Peacemakers utilizes social media platforms. Here, teens are declaring their future careers. This is a "future music producer," a "future artist," and a "future nurse." Teens are encouraged to take hold of their futures and own them.**



## Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP)

TPP is sponsored by the Office of Adolescent Health of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In this program Peacemakers partners with community providers to saturate the County's highest birth rate zip codes with evidence-based curricula for middle and high school-age youth. The curricula address the serious emotional, health and financial impact of sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy and births in those communities. Over 6,000 youth are served each year in this program, according to Crystal Agnew, Peacemakers' Deputy Director.

## Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)

PREP falls under Family & Youth Services Bureau, also of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Youth receive a needs assessment, a post-traumatic stress disorder screen to assess for trauma and personal needs, healthy relationship education, financial literacy, case management services and evidence-based pregnancy prevention curriculum.

## Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)

SRAE teaches youth skills on how to avoid risks associated with sexual activity. The curriculum focuses on the concept of healthy relationships to make decisions about delaying sexual activity. Participants complete a sequence of what it takes to attain their goals and learn how decisions about sex might affect those goals. SRAE is also sponsored by the Family & Youth Services Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Crystal Agnew described the challenges and what makes these programs effective. She is the Deputy Director of Peacemakers Family Center and oversees current federal projects for Peacemakers: "Our youth don't always have good examples. There is a lot of teen dating violence and trafficking. The programming is based on making choices in the context of healthy relationships. What does a healthy relationship look like?" Youth learn life skills such as how to negotiate and stick with a decision. They learn ways to withstand peer pressure and express their convictions.

The curriculum is eye-opening and reaches far beyond the classroom. Executive Director Freeman explained that some students believe agreeing to a date means saying yes to having sex. "You mean, I don't have to have sex when I go on a date?" a student asked. Peacemakers helps youth realize, "I could just be a kid, and I can go to college and I don't have to be pregnant," noted Freeman. Deputy Director Agnew added, "Teen birth rates have continued to decline in Miami-Dade County and we're hoping that the work we do is having an impact on that [rate]. Some of our schools are seeing an increase in students using health clinics, with youth understanding the risks associated with at-risk behavior, that they can make healthier decisions."

AMTC is pleased to be a part of their success by providing performance measurements and evaluation. AMTC will assist in this current funding cycle to build capacity with technical assistance, training and goal setting in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Harlem, New York. "Peacemakers is incredibly disciplined, competent, efficient, dedicated and fun to work with," noted Angela Turner, AMTC's Principal. "They understand the place where participants are at in their lives and they use love, compassion and humor to get individuals to believe in themselves."

Freeman believes Peacemakers and AMTC is a great team because they have similar core values. "AMTC likes winning, too. Their aim is to get an A plus and we aim to get an A plus—so we can win together. Over this time period that we have worked together, no year has been exactly the same in terms of challenges. What I appreciate about AMTC is that they are flexible. We're going to optimize the situation and the resources to do the work that I want to do, and because AMTC thinks that way we get along really well."

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The "Wall of Plans" is an interactive activity that invites teens to write out their future plans for their lives. Helping teens focus on their future plans helps them understand how to make positive choices today.



An impactful skit was written and acted by Peacemakers to demonstrate the consequences of making unhealthy choices.

<sup>1,2</sup>Peacemakers Family Center. (2017, July 5) *Peacemakers is Growing*. Retrieved from: <http://peacemakers.com/who-we-are/>

## Welcome Evaluation Associates Jerome Brody and Jackie Woods

### **JEROME BRODY**

#### **What is your educational background, and when did you start at AMTC?**

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. I anticipate continuing my education online through Southern New Hampshire University. I started at AMTC in February of 2017.

#### **Is there a specific area that you will focus on with your work at AMTC?**

Currently I provide evaluation follow-up calls to dads in the Milwaukee County Pathways for Fathers and Families program. I also perform data entry and have done some observations of workshops.

#### **What excites you about this work?**

It really excites me to work with clients in the Fatherhood program. I love being able to follow-up with dads in the program and provide them with a positive customer service experience. I have a lot in common with fathers in the program. I too am a single father of a daughter and know the importance of setting a good example and being a good dad.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish at AMTC?**

I want to become more knowledgeable about curriculum fidelity and overall evaluation procedures.

#### **What has been your impression of AMTC so far?**

AMTC is a very professional organization. The people are genuine and very knowledgeable in the evaluation and curriculum fields. They are very accommodating to their clients and staff. I enjoy working with the team!

#### **Aside from your role with AMTC, is there anything interesting that you could tell us about yourself?**

I am a Sports Official for Baseball, Basketball and Football. In 2015 I was selected as an Umpire for the WBCA High School All Star game. I recently instructed a Beginner Baseball Clinic for Field of Dreams, a Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Baseball Program. I enjoyed working with Children and teaching them new skills.



**Jerome Brody**

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### **JACKIE WOODS**

#### **What is your educational background, and when did you start at AMTC?**

I attended Milwaukee Area Technical College for Culinary Arts. I have a lot of practical experience in kitchens, in Milwaukee and on the West Coast. Milwaukee restaurants include Bacchus, Umami Moto and Ardent. California restaurants were Redd in Napa Valley and Homestead in Oakland. Currently I am at Ardent on Milwaukee's East Side. I started at AMTC in December of 2016.

#### **Is there a specific area that you will focus on with your work at AMTC?**

I scan and process surveys for AMTC. My attention to detail as a chef is a skill that I apply to my survey work with AMTC.

#### **What excites you about this work?**

I love learning new tasks, just like learning new skills in the kitchen or creating a new dish. Diversifying my skills is important to me, and I appreciate AMTC for the experience. You might be surprised to learn that there are many applicable aspects to the restaurant business.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish at AMTC?**

I look forward to expanding my skills so that I can contribute in whatever capacity I'm needed.

#### **What has been your impression of AMTC so far?**

AMTC is a well-oiled machine and is able to streamline processes. They always make sure the clients get what they need in a timely fashion.

#### **Aside from your role with AMTC, is there anything interesting that you could tell us about yourself?**

My calling in life is to be a chef. My long-term goal is to travel to Japan to obtain their famous cutlery for my dishes. I am a husband and a father to a two-and-a-half-year-old and a two-and-a-half-month-old.



**Jackie Woods**