

Mission Statement

*PEARLS for Teen Girls is committed to being the community's signature program for maximizing girls' self-development. True girl/adult partnerships result in building and living PEARLS attributes: **Personal responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Respect, Leadership and Support.***



FOR TEEN GIRLS INC.

What is PEARLS for Teen Girls?

PEARLS is a totally innovative leadership development organization custom designed to address the most critical issues facing Milwaukee today—including the second highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation and skyrocketing high school drop out rates.

Using groundbreaking strategies, PEARLS empowers some of Milwaukee's most at-risk teen girls to achieve in school, take responsibility for their behavior, avoid teen pregnancy, violence and other negative traps, and ultimately, use their personal power to break the cycle of poverty.



To make a donation that will make a real difference to girls in Milwaukee, visit PEARLS at:

PearlsForTeenGirls.com

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FOR TEEN GIRLS INC.

Welcome to PEARLS, a totally innovative self-development program for girls in the Milwaukee area.

Who does PEARLS serve?

PEARLS serves primarily at-risk middle and high school African-American and Latina girls. The primary goal of PEARLS is to help girls facing the challenges of poverty, to envision their personal power and potential, take meaningful action, and direct the course of their own lives.

Recently, PEARLS girls participated in Brighter Futures citywide Youth Risk Behavior survey. It was the first time an instrument administered to youth across the city of Milwaukee provided comparison data that delineated how PEARLS girls' attitudes compared to those of girls citywide. The results were astounding:

When asked to respond to the statement, *"I can resist negative peer pressure,"* **78.3%** of PEARLS girls strongly agreed. Only 38% of non-PEARLS girls strongly agreed.

When asked, *"How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?"* **82.6%** of PEARLS girls said they never had. Just 40% of high school girls citywide never had and just 71% of middle school girls never had.

Responding to the statement, *"I stand up for my beliefs,"* **91.3%** of PEARLS girls strongly agreed. Only 56% of girls citywide agreed.

"PEARLS is intervening with the girls themselves, striving to make them emotionally healthy and getting them to think meaningfully about their futures."—Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial

Where and how are programs offered?

PEARLS programs are girls-only, after-school, safe-space gatherings that meet once or twice weekly, after school, during school and on Saturdays. PEARLS programs are offered in partnership with schools and established youth-serving organizations in some of Milwaukee's most economically and socially challenged areas.

"I never thought I would graduate from high school. I never thought I could go to college. PEARLS gave me the confidence and support I needed to believe I could do it, to apply, and to get accepted."—PEARLS alumna.

