

# COUNTY OF CHATHAM

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 CARL OUTZ  
 GARY PHILLIPS  
 MARGARET BRYANT POLLARD



CHARLIE HORNE  
 County Manager

ROBERT L. GUNN  
 County Attorney

Phone (919) 542-8200  
 Fax (919) 542-8272

P. O. BOX 87  
 PITTSBORO, N. C. 27312-0087

ORGANIZED 1770 707 SQUARE MILES

## Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month 2000 A Proclamation By The Chatham County Commissioners

WHEREAS, teenage pregnancy compromises the health, economic and educational future of our teens and costs our county and State millions of dollars each year, and

WHEREAS, unemployment, underemployment and dependence on public welfare are often a result of teenage parents' inability to complete their education, and

WHEREAS, babies born to teenage mothers are often born prematurely and with low birth weights which can result in long term disabilities and hundreds of thousands of dollars in hospital bills, and

WHEREAS, this problem impacts local young people as shown by the statistics which reveal that 119 teenage pregnancies occurred in Chatham County girls between the ages of 13-19 in the year 1998, one in ten girls in this age group became pregnant, many of them for the second time, and

WHEREAS, it has been found that teenage pregnancies can be prevented through open communication between parents and their children, through comprehensive sex education and community awareness and support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that May 2000 will be designated as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month in Chatham County.

FURTHERMORE, all families in Chatham County are encouraged to join with the Chatham Coalition for Adolescent Health to give our children the opportunity to reach adulthood before they take on the responsibilities of parenthood.

This the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2000

*Rick Givens*  
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 Chair

*Uva R Holland*  
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 Vice Chair

*Margaret B Pollard*  
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 Commissioner

*Carl Outz*  
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 Commissioner

*Gary Phillips*  
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 Commissioner