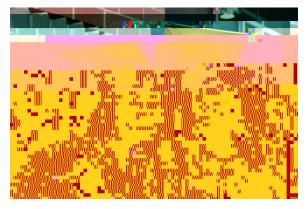
Views from New Heights



A collection
of life
stories from
New
Heights
participants

Young
parents share
their
challenges
and successes
-- in the







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socio-economic backgrounds, races, ages, and ethnicities face challenges every day. For expectant and parenting students, these challenges can be especially overwhelming.

Expectant and parenting students have the added responsibility of providing for their children while juggling school, preparing for college or careers, and mapping out a plan for their future. The New Heights program supports them and their families to reach these goals.

13 Public High Schools Host New Heights Program
Anacostia
High Schia

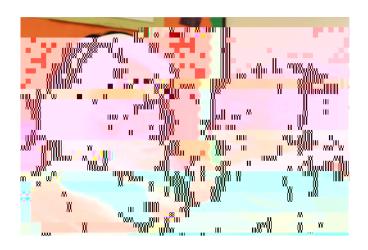
Program Participants Share their Stories

Jewel -- Dunbar High School

Jewel became a victim of human trafficking at age 14. After a night of abuse by her pimp, she made a daring escape knowing that if caught, she would be killed. She got away with the help of a metro bus driver who allowed her on the bus without paying. Jewel then reported her story to the police and helped prosecute and convict her pimp. Fearing for her safety, Jewel was sent away to li. J

Latasha Roosevelt High School

When Latasha was 16 years old she found out she was pregnant. She was very uncertain about her life and her future, but she was determined to have her baby. Over a period of time, she developed a trusting relationship with the school's New Heights coordinator, who provided her with support and resources when she faced the inevitable challenges of balancing life as a teen mom and a student. Making matters more complicated, Latasha battled postpartum depression during the months following her baby's birth. With the support and guidance of New Heights staff and other supporters, she was able to work through this difficult time. In June 2013, Latasha became the first person in her immediate family to graduate from high school.



Nick and Nora, Cardozo EC

Nora found out she was pregnant prior to her junior year. When she and the child's father, Nick, returned to school in September, they enrolled in New Heights. During the lunch hour parenting workshops, Nick, the only guy in the room, would tune everyone out. Eventually, he started to pay attention: he learned how to be a good parent and how to raise a baby in a good, safe environment. From then on they attended the New

Heights lunch hour every single day. When Nora was out of school on maternity leave, Nick brought home her schoolwork and told her what was discussed in New Heights that day. Being a father, he says, gave him a new sense of focus. When Nora returned to school. both she and Nick continued in the program and have been described as the New Heights "stars." In June, Nick was able to keep his promise to his father as he and Nora graduated from Cardozo and will be attending UDC in the fall.



Tina Anacostia High School

Tina, a 16 year-old high school junior, found out she was expecting in April 2013. Her guidance counselor suggested she join the New Heights program to help her continue her education and graduate on time. Soon after, Tina was encouraged by the New Heights coordinator to participate in an all-day conference for expecting and parenting teens. The conference was offered by one of the many community-

About the New Heights Program

The New Heights program is a school-based initiative that engages expectant and parenting students in 13 public high schools in the District of Columbia.

The program seeks to improve the attendance and graduation rates of these students, prepare them for college or