

## **Baby Steps - Norman, OK**

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A community partnership established in 1993 involving Junior League of Norman, Crossroads Youth and Family Services, the Center for Children & Families, and Norman Public Schools. To date, Baby Steps has served more than 150 expecting or parenting teenage students, helping them reach graduation and having the skills and resources they need to continue reaching their goals beyond high school.

### **Benefits to Baby Steps students**

#### **Norman Public Schools (NPS):**

- Transportation for students and their children
- Allowance for post-partum absences—6 weeks and a homebound instructor
- Credit for Baby Steps class
- Finding the right fit for their educational needs: traditional high school route (Norman High, Norman North), alternative high school (Dimensions Academy), online school (ExpandedED), connecting to adult education to complete a GED
- Norman Public Schools Parents as Teachers program—individualized parenting

#### **Crossroads Youth & Family Services (CYFS):**

- Early Head Start (EHS) for children of students—same schedule as NPS
- Diapers and formula provided any time the children are present at the EHS
- Provides developmentally appropriate education for children and screening/referrals as needed

#### **Community connections & partners:**

- Junior League of Norman—Baby Steps house (shared facility between NPS and CYFS); parties & holiday gifts for students; sharing donations of tangible items as students identify needs; provide diapers for EHS
- Center for Children & Families—assist students with tangible needs through their Diaper Pantry; additional individualized parenting education through the Bringing Up Babies program
- Bridges of Norman—housing for students and their children who are living independently
- Cleveland County Health Department—Uber grant for transportation, Sooner Start, Children First, Birth Partners
- Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health—individual counseling services (available during school hours for students at Dimensions Academy)
- Norman Police Department—free car seats including demonstrations & installations
- Infant Crisis Center—BabyMobile which provides diapers, wipes, formula, food for toddlers, and bottles
- Community guest speakers—infant mental health providers, dentists, pediatricians, OBGYNs, Pioneer Library System