



SEX, LIES & STEREOTYPES: PROFILES OF FEDERALLY FUNDED ABSTINENCE- ONLY GRANT RECIPIENTS

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FREE TEENS USA

“Sex makes you feel good, but it can kill you.”

- Richard Panzer, Founder and Director of Free Teens, USA, *Free Sex – NOT!*¹

Free Teens USA is a longtime federal abstinence-only grantee based in New Jersey with close ties to Reverend Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church. Led by family values activist Richard Panzer, the organization produces its own curriculum and operates several websites. Though it has come under intense scrutiny for its links with the Unification Church, Free Teens continues to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funding each year.

What You Should Know – Overview

Founded: 1989

Budget: \$720,317²

Government Contributions or Grants: \$713,359³

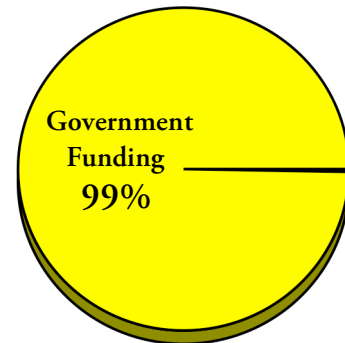
Websites: <http://www.freeteens.org>
<http://www.culturemachine.org>
<http://www.lovesmarts.org>

Religious Affiliation: Free Teens claims to have no religious affiliation but several of its directors are Unification Church members and many, including founder Richard Panzer, have worked directly for the Unification Church or its affiliated organizations.⁴

Key Program: Free Teens Volunteers/Peer Educator Program

Key Publication: Relationship Training Curriculum

Free Teens USA 2004 Budget



■ Direct Public Support
■ Program Revenue
■ Government Support

History

Free Teens describes itself as “a reality-based, abstinence-centered HIV/AIDS, STDs, and Pregnancy Prevention program.”⁵ Free Teens is comprised of a curriculum, which has been used in 38 states and 70 countries as well as translated into 12 languages,⁶ and three websites. Free Teens was approved for use in the New York City Public Schools in 1994. In 1995, Long Island public schools dropped the Free Teens curriculum due to concerns over its alleged connection to Reverend Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church, which has long been criticized for its recruiting practices, alleged corruption and misogyny.⁷

The Free Teens curriculum and websites contain misleading statements, gender stereotypes and scare tactics. The Free Teens main website (<http://www.freeteens.org>) contains a link entitled “US Gov: Condom Effectiveness Limited Against Many STDs!,” which leads to inaccurately distorted information grossly minimizing condom effectiveness in preventing HPV.⁸ Free Teens founder Richard Panzer has also authored a book attacking the effectiveness of condoms, entitled “Condom Nation: Blind Faith, Bad Science.”

Despite the controversy, Free Teens has continued to grow – largely due to state and federal funding. Starting in 1998, the New Jersey State Department of Health granted Free Teens a 5-year grant to present its curriculum in Jersey City and Patterson public schools. Currently, Free Teens enjoys \$800,000 in annual abstinence-only funding from the federal government – nearly its entire budget.⁹

Key Staff

Richard Panzer, Founder and Director

Panzer is a graduate of Yale University as well as the Unification Theological Seminary.¹⁰ Prior to founding Free Teens USA, Panzer served as Head of the Unification Church in Rhode Island¹¹ and Arkansas.¹² He also worked for the American Freedom Coalition¹³ as well as the American Constitution Committee, both Unification-associated political organizations.¹⁴ Panzer is also the founder and Director of the Center for Educational Media, which has been labeled as a Moon front by anti-Unification groups and the only apparent purpose of which seems to be to distribute Panzer’s products and publications.¹⁵ These publications include the Free Teens Relationship Training curriculum, a children’s book called “Mommy, Daddy, Where Do Babies Come From?” (which Dr. Laura Schlessinger read aloud on her national radio show), “Condom Nation: Blind Faith, Bad Science” and “Preventing Violence: Why Families are Important and What They can Do” (endorsed by Wade Horn, current head of the Administration for Children and Families, which presently administers federal funds to Free Teens).¹⁶ He has also hosted his own radio and television shows, both called “What’s Your MQ (Marital Intelligence)?”¹⁷

Martin Porter, Chief Financial Officer

Porter earned an MBA and PhD from Century University (a now-defunct correspondence school in California).¹⁸ He also previously served as CEO of Tongil Trading Company, a Toronto company affiliated with Unification Church entities, from 1977 until 1983. During that time, Porter also appeared in Unification Church promotional materials that proclaimed him “Moon’s Man in Canada.”¹⁹

Bjorn Ottosson, Director

Ottosson is former Vice-President of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP), which has been widely criticized due to its close ties to the Unification Church,²⁰ and is also alleged to have worked for Christian Bernard, a Unification-associated jewelry company.²¹

David Konn, Director

Konn is formerly associated with Saeilo, a Unification Church-linked weapons manufacturer,²² Konn also has ties to the Unification-linked American Leadership.²³

Tony Appia, Director

His listed working address is also the stated address given for several Unification associated organizations, including the Blessed Family Department, One Up Enterprises (which owns the Washington Times) and the Unification Thought Institute.²⁴

Eric Holt, Director

Holt previously served as comptroller of the Unification Church²⁵

In Their Own Words

Gender Roles

“Society used to have clear standards. But our sexualized culture treats girls and women as sex objects. They allow themselves to be treated as such because they believe it is expected of them. If a boy says something nice or spends some money on them some girls feel obligated to have sex.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*²⁶

“On average, females are more verbal at an earlier age. They are usually more concerned about nurturing relationships and communicating feelings. On average, boys are more aggressive, goal-oriented and solution-oriented.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*²⁷

Sexual Activity Outside of Marriage

“The emotional costs of casual, short-term sexual relationships hit hard on sexually active teenage girls who have a six times higher risk of attempting suicide than girls who haven't have sex.... We learned that sex makes you feel good, but it can kill you or make you sterile.”

- Richard Panzer, *Free Sex – NOT!*²⁸

“Ask for four volunteers, two boys and two girls. Give each a glass of water. Ask them to take a sip but not to swallow. Then tell them to spit back into the cup. Next, ask them to exchange cups. Then suggest that they take a sip from the new cup. Students will object, of course. Ask them ‘why don't you want to take a sip?’ They will say that someone else already spit into their cups! Point out that having sex with someone is much more intimate than drinking a little bit of their saliva and is much more risky in terms of consequences. If you believe that your saliva is a private thing, how much more is sexual intimacy.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*²⁹

“In the second stage of intimacy, infatuation, you are more than attracted, you are obsessed!...The trouble is that when you fall in love in this way, you are on drugs, natural amphetamines that give you a feeling of elation as well as higher levels of testosterone, increasing sexual desire. How good is your judgment when you're in a drug-induced intoxication?...The brain becomes habituated to a drug after several weeks or months and the excitement starts to wear off. Many couples turn to sex to regain the excitement.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*³⁰

“Two main streams of thought on sexuality throughout history. One, expressed in all the major world religions views sexuality as a gift from the Creator, to be used within certain guidelines. The major faiths agree that sex should be enjoyed within the context of marriage. Those who followed the teachings of their faith were provided with nearly perfect protection against disease and nonmarital pregnancy...The other stream of thought challenged the widespread agreement among world religions about reserving sex for marriage and criticized them for denying people free access to information about sex and about birth control. Influential thinkers such as Margaret Mead, Sigmund Freud, and Alfred Kinsey had enormous impact on social attitudes about sexuality even though most of their research has been discredited.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*³¹

“Sexual freedom has not brought more happiness. It has led to what the psychiatrist Viktor Frankl calls ‘neurotic sex’ where people just use each other compulsively for self-centered ends. People can get more sex partners, but find sexual union less fulfilling.”

- *Free Teens USA Relationship Training Curriculum*³²

Comprehensive Sexual Education

“Safe sex is seldom practiced, even by those who should know better, because human beings are not very rational when it comes to desire. Giving people, especially teenagers, more information about HIV and AIDS and preaching safe sex will not lead to changes in behavior.”

- Richard Panzer, *Safe Sex Can Be Hazardous*³³

Marriage

“When we join in sexual intimacy with someone we are potentially joining our lineage with that person's. For that reason, having sex is never just a personal act. We have to ask ourselves whether we really want the person we feel attracted to become a permanent part of our lineage.”

- Richard Panzer, *The “Its My Body” Fallacy*³⁴

Sources

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- ²⁵ *Id.*
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