

Mission Updates -- Teen Advisors

The mission of Teen Advisors is **to empower and equip students to impact their peers through positive peer pressure**. When students commit to stand for integrity, the influence and momentum of peer pressure is leveraged for good and the effectiveness of student to student impact is multiplied! Teen Advisors believes that students who are choosing to "live real" by making integrity-based decisions are "really living."

Student to student impact exists in every school, as teens are more likely to listen to their peers than any other age group. Most often, this comes in the form of **negative peer pressure** with students influencing other students to fit in. However, there are students in every school who are making good choices with their lives and who are living a lifestyle of integrity. What if, by coming together, **these** students could actually create a movement that counters the negative peer pressure that seems to govern the schools? This is where Teen Advisors comes in.

Teen Advisors seeks to equip our local students to have both freedom from the trap of conformity, as well as strength from the bonds of authentic friendship made within the group. They also seek to give peace to parents knowing that their teenager lives with the constant "safety net" of their morally strong peers, and pride and satisfaction knowing that their teenagers model courage and lead others. In doing these things, Teen Advisors envisions transformed communities with "integrity lifeboats" in every high school and middle school, "oak tree teenagers" standing tall against the winds of peer pressure, and ultimately morally strengthened cities and communities through years of supporting the character development of students.

Teen Advisors hosts age-appropriate classroom sessions, on school property, that give students a way to become leaders. Also, students who join the program are invited to participate in community wide Teen Advisor events and activities such as themed parties, service days, small group activities, and even retreats to help form bonds and build friendships with other Velocity/Teen Advisors participants at their own schools and across the community.

Teen Advisors has been in existence in our area for 31 years and has touched the lives of over 75,000 students during that time! How does St. Paul help? We support Teen Advisors through our local missions' budget. We also have many St. Paul teens, and their families, who are involved in Teen Advisors, Velocity, which is the programming for 7th and 8th graders, and Elevate, which is programming created with the 9th grader in mind. Want to know more about Teen Advisors? Email Tammy Reynolds at tjreynolds3@gmail.com or call the church office.