

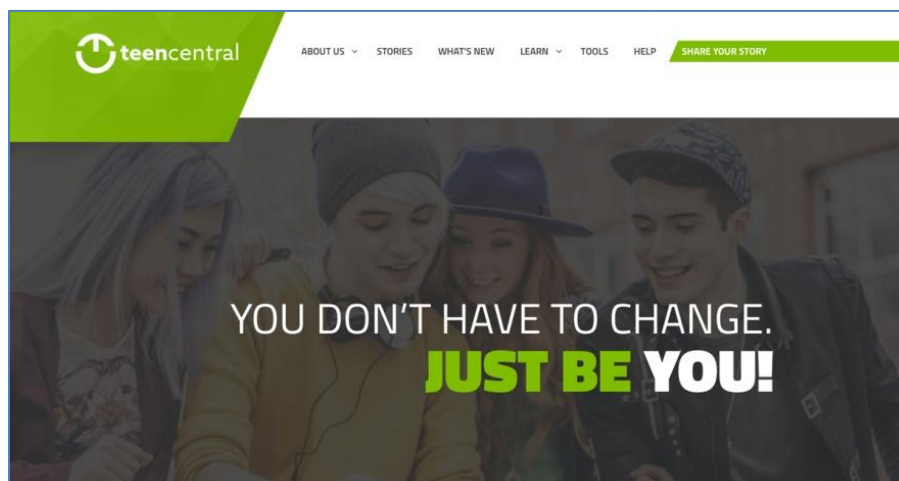


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## **KidsPeace Launches Redesigned *TeenCentral* Service**

*Web-based program's therapeutic support offerings for teens expanded, presented in easier-to-navigate format; retains individual response capability*



**SCHNECKSVILLE, PA (June 7, 2017)** - Since 1998, KidsPeace has offered therapeutic support to young people through *TeenCentral*, a free and confidential web-based service. Now, **KidsPeace has launched a “re-imagined” version of *TeenCentral* that provides even more support and guidance for teens** through this free and safe resource.

The new service continues to offer young people the opportunity to post their issues or concerns anonymously and receive an individually crafted response within 24 hours. But the redesigned *TeenCentral* now features a number of significant upgraded capabilities that make it more responsive to the needs of today's youth, including:

- ***A contemporary visual concept:*** A modern and streamlined format, providing the user the ability to access content areas, find support helplines and submit stories with ease, as well as a new logo chosen by youth.
- ***A multifaceted and supportive response:*** All members of *Team TeenCentral* receive initial and ongoing training for their role as Online Counselors, and are supported by an administrative team of mental health professionals throughout their experience. *Team TeenCentral* includes interns from schools such as Cedar Crest College, Marywood University and Portland State University, allowing KidsPeace the opportunity to support the educational experience of a new group of human service professionals.

*(more)*

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- ***More clinically driven content:*** *TeenCentral* now offers an expanded library of relevant content, blogs and videos on topics such as substance use, relationships, LGBTQ, body image, anxiety, self-injury and depression among others.
- ***TeenCentral Toolbox.*** A support toolbox offering users a variety of printable tools intended to empower youth and give them concrete interventions to cope with their struggles.

Thespina Godshalk, MS, LPC, Director of *TeenCentral*, noted that the service received an innovation award from Microsoft in the late 1990s. “*TeenCentral* pioneered the concept of using web-based communications technology to reach teens in need of information, encouragement and support as they deal with the issues that are important to them,” Godshalk said.

“Now we’re excited to be able to expand and improve on its support for this key population, while continuing to provide the free, anonymous and confidential response service they’ve come to rely upon,” she added

The new *TeenCentral* is available now at [www.teencentral.com](http://www.teencentral.com) .

*For 135 years, KidsPeace has been building on its expertise to give hope, help and healing to children, families and communities throughout the United States. Through its comprehensive range of residential treatment programs; accredited educational services; unique psychiatric hospital and foster care and community-based programs, KidsPeace is dedicated to helping people connect, transform and overcome their challenges to ensure a stable future, transition to adulthood and gain independence. Since its doors opened in 1882, more than 200,000 children have participated in one of the multitude of programs KidsPeace offers.*

*For additional resources or more information on how to get involved, become a foster parent or make a donation, please visit [www.kidspeace.org](http://www.kidspeace.org). Follow us at [www.facebook.com/kidspeace.org](https://www.facebook.com/kidspeace.org) or on Twitter @KidsPeace.*

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