

Fort Collins Colorado

April
28, 2002

Tell the truth

Responding to my February comments, Margaret Graham, asked "Does Loonan think Alpha Center (AC) makes up these statistics and facts?" Yes, I do.

Bruce Mirken, *Colorado Springs Independent* newspaper (Aug. 16), in discussing abstinence-only education programs stated, "Sometimes the information is flat wrong ... the curriculum, Choosing the Best, warns kids about syphilis, stating that more than 100,000 new cases are reported each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when in fact according to the CDC's STD Surveillance, only 6,657 cases of primary and secondary syphilis were reported in 1999." The AC's 2000 presentation to my daughter's ninth-grade class, quoted the CDC as stating, "there are 101,000 cases annually of syphilis."

AC executive director Sharon Hindman justified not telling our children what kind of organization it is, saying, "that's not what abstinence programs are about." That's unacceptable. She knows AC presents itself as a resource for our children faced with an unintended pregnancy. That demands AC disclose to our children it's Christian-based, opposed to abortion and wouldn't refer a woman for birth control.

Poudre School District discussed disclosure with AC, which expressed reluctance. Why? Because, in my opinion, getting as many unsuspecting abortion-minded women as it can into the center is its goal. AC knows abortion-minded women aware of its opposition to abortion wouldn't likely contact them, so AC resorts to deception.

Thanks to Brian Oliver, PSD science coordinator, for making sure our children are told the truth, fully informed, and given accurate information.

**Peggy Loonan,
Fort Collins**