**Background**

The origins of Manos Abiertas date back to 1992, the main activity at the time was delivering food and clothes at a chapel in Buenos Aires, but the organization grew. New integral services and programs were incorporated, including the ***Social Center Beato Hurtado***, whose mission is to centralize the social cases of Manos Abiertas, provide medical care, social promotion and be a referral center to other works and/or public institutions.

The following program is one of many that are available at this Center.

**Young and teenage pregnancy is a large issue in Argentina**

In Argentina 700 thousand children are born per year:

- 16% of these children have mothers between the ages of 15 and 19.

- Over 3000 are the children of girls between the ages of 10 and 13 years of age.

- 69% of these girls did not plan the pregnancy.

- 6 out of 10 girls that get pregnant drop out of school.

- This issue does not distinguish social class or economic factors.

- The teenage pregnancy rate is growing.

- The percentage of births in young adolescents between the ages of 13 and 16 is growing.

With teenage pregnancy, a girl faces the need to become a mother without having reached physical and emotional maturity, and with the pregnancy come many issues and risks:

* Familial problems, and isolation
* Prejudice
* Abandoned education
* Difficulty finding work
* Discrimination

**A different reality is possible for her.** With love, protection, care and prevention.

Help us accompany her in order to reduce the emotional impact, help her commit herself to her new life, listen to her to hear and understand her needs provide clear and precise information.

Teach her to care for herself and her unborn child, and be a source a strong support in this whole process.

We are all part of that support system, it is you and me. Each one of us can join the effort to form and create a new reality for these teenagers and children.

**What are we already doing in Manos Abiertas?**

Manos Abiertas accompanies these girls through the group ¨grupo pesebre¨, that meets weekly in one of our homes in Villa de Mayo, the ***Social Center Beato Hurtado***. There, volunteers along with a team of interdisciplinary workers, helps them providing whatever they may need, someone to listen to them, motivating and encouraging them to go forward with the pregnancy and providing health and prevention workshops.

**The issue of teenage pregnancy is rising year after year, Manos Abiertas needs to expand the program, making it more accessible for young women.**

* With prevention workshops
* Helping the girls with trained professionals (doctors and social workers)
* Listening and accompanying them, providing information to help them make responsable decisions