



5915 Rhodes Road • Kent, Ohio 44240 • 330.678.9019

[Blessingsspc.org](http://Blessingsspc.org)

[Blessingsspc@gmail.com](mailto:Blessingsspc@gmail.com)

TO: Teen Parents  
FROM: Blessings of Summit and Portage Counties  
RE: Application Process for Blessings

Do you plan on graduating from high school, but wonder if you will be able to remain in school because you need childcare?

Blessings of Summit and Portage Counties is interested in helping you reach your goal.

Check out the following forms to complete your application:

1. Student Qualification
2. Student Application Process/Student Use of Childcare Funds
3. Organizational Information
4. Mission/Statement of Faith
5. Student Application Form

Please read the handouts thoroughly. If you believe you qualify for childcare from Blessings, complete the Student Application Form and return it to:

Blessings  
5915 Rhodes Rd.  
Kent, Ohio 44240

If you prefer to complete the Student Application online, simply go to [Blessingsspc.org](http://Blessingsspc.org) and click on the "Application" page. From there, you can complete the electronic version of the Student Application.

Note: If you plan to print this packet out, it works well to print the Cover Letter separately. Then printing pages 2-7 front and back works nicely and the Student Application will be on one page.

## **Student Qualifications**

### **The student:**

1. Must be a parent between the ages of 12 and 22.
2. Must be enrolled in middle school, high school, an accredited university, or vocational training program. Continuation of the Blessings program after high school is at the discretion of Blessings.
3. Must be in GRADS or another parenting-related course in Family & Consumer Sciences, if in middle school or high school.
4. Along with their parent/guardian, must agree to the requirements of Blessings and indicate such by signing a contract. If the young parent is 18 or over, the requirement for parent/guardian signature may be waived.
5. Must have legal guardianship of the child.

### **The student will commit to:**

1. Participating in a weekly meeting/activity with the Mentor (3 per month) and a Life Skills Dinner Meeting (1 per month).
2. Being disciplined into and attending a local Bible-believing church worship service weekly. In addition, post-secondary students will commit to regular involvement in a church-based ministry or an on-campus Bible-believing group.
3. Accepting and assuming responsibility for themselves and their child's needs.
4. Adopting an abstinent life-style and having no subsequent pregnancies while in the Blessings program.
5. Being free from substance abuse.
6. Maintaining a "C" average and following school attendance policies.
7. Submitting interim grade card and attendance reports for evaluation by the Discipleship Coordinator.

## **Student Application Process**

**A young parent interested in Blessings will follow these steps:**

1. Obtain a Blessings brochure.
2. Request a Student Application Packet (from either your high school or online at [blessingsspc.org/application](http://blessingsspc.org/application)) and read it thoroughly.
3. Complete and return the Student Application Form. Either the paper one found with this packet or an electronic version as described on the cover letter is acceptable.
4. Interview with members of the Blessings Board. The Board makes the decision to accept or deny the student. The Discipleship Coordinator will contact the student with the decision.
5. If accepted, the student, student's parent/guardian, and Discipleship Coordinator will meet to discuss and sign the contract.

## **Student Use of Childcare Funds**

**Students who complete an application, an interview, a contract, and are accepted by the Blessings Board will be provided funds to pay for child care according to the following:**

1. Students will select a licensed or certified child care provider.
2. Checks will be written by the Blessings Treasurer and distributed to the student's mentor, who will give the check to the student at their weekly meeting. The student will pay the child care provider.
3. Child care payment will only be made for actual days the student is in school.
4. Students will be expected to use child care for school hours only, unless otherwise agreed upon by Blessings, the student and child care provider.

## Organizational Information

Board of Trustees: A board member is an elected individual who agrees to meet regularly for the purposes of establishing policy, appointing personnel, and overseeing the operation and promotion of Blessings. The Board interviews student applicants as well as mentors/board member applicants to determine their acceptance into the program. The Board has final say regarding any disputes. Board Members agree to act in good faith and abide by the guidelines of Blessings.

Treasurer: This individual receives funds, disperses funds, and maintains financial records.

Discipleship Coordinator: This individual agrees to serve for at least one year and attend regular Board meetings. He/She must be knowledgeable about the components of Blessings and be able to work effectively with the Life Skills Coordinator, Mentor, parents, student, GRADS Coordinator, school, and church to arrange various experiences for the student as described in the guidelines. Organizational skills combined with a desire to foster the mission and goals of Blessings are essential. Monitoring student adherence to the contract and assessing continuing eligibility are tasks performed by the Discipleship Coordinator. He/She facilitates a monthly Mentor/Staff meeting.

Life Skills Coordinator: This individual helps develop the monthly Life Skills Meetings and facilitates the Life Skills monthly meetings. She assists the Mentors and Discipleship Coordinator in helping to provide programs that are relevant to the needs of the students. In addition, she attends the monthly Board meetings and provides monthly prayer requests for the board.

Mentor: This individual must meet the qualifications set forth by the Blessings Board of Trustees. He/She will agree to a one year term during which time the mentor will meet with a student three times per month to reinforce the goals of Blessings. The mentor will also attend the monthly Life Skills Meeting with his/her teen mom, and a monthly Mentor/Staff Meeting with the Life Skills and Discipleship Coordinators to plan for the next Life Skills meeting. The mentor will provide emotional support and encouragement for the student while demonstrating appropriate parenting behavior. He/She will seek out activities the young parent and child can attend. The Mentor is responsible to administer the weekly check for child care if the student has been in church the previous Sunday and if the student meets for weekly mentoring. Blessings prefers to have a mentor and student attending the same church, as the student is better able to be assimilated into the local church.

Community Volunteers: These individuals are recruited to enhance programming at all levels in Blessings (See [blessingsspc.org/support](http://blessingsspc.org/support) and scroll to Volunteer Positions at the end of the page.)

Communications Coordinator: This individual coordinates meals for monthly Life Skills meetings, does mailings, takes and emails the minutes for the monthly Board meeting, and maintains our database.

Special Events Coordinator: This individual connects with organizations and individuals who would like to give through donating gently used items or hosting events that generate donations for our students and their children.

## **Mission**

To invite teen parents to consider the Good News of Jesus Christ as we partner with them to complete their education by providing discipleship and childcare money through donations provided by churches, businesses, and individuals.

## **Statement of Faith**

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His Return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We also believe that personal repentance and faith are essential for salvation.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; that they are saved unto the Resurrection of life and that they are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*This statement of faith is taken from the National Association of Evangelicals with the addition of the second sentence of statement #4.

Blessings recognizes the right of people to choose their own spiritual beliefs. Students and guardians are not required to adhere to any specific spiritual beliefs in order to enter or continue in the program.

Blessings reserves the right to choose mentors and approve churches to fulfill the church attendance requirements that will support and teach truths that the founders of and contributors to Blessings believe will best help the student spiritually. All Board members, mentors and other officers of Blessings must agree with and support the beliefs expressed in the Statement of Faith. A pastor or other representative of a church one of our students chooses to attend must affirm to a representative of Blessings the agreement of their local church or parish with these beliefs. Otherwise that student may be asked to attend another church for the worship attendance requirement.

## Blessing of Summit & Portage Counties, Inc. Student Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Have you read the Student Handout sheets? Yes    No

Given the Student Qualifications, do you qualify for participation in the Blessing program? Yes    No

Do you intend to fulfill the student commitments as presented in the Student Handout sheets? Yes    No

Do you currently have childcare arrangements? (If yes, explain) Yes    No

Have you ever used non-prescription drugs or alcohol? (Explain if necessary) Yes    No

In what ways do you see this program benefiting you and your child?

Please describe your present experience with any religious organization.

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On the next page, please supply three character references who are 21 years or older.  
One must be from your GRADS, Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, or Guidance Counselor.  
One must be a non-family member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Street	City	State	Zip Code
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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Street	City	State	Zip Code
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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Street	City	State	Zip Code
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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The answers and information I gave above are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Return to: **Grace Baptist Church**  
**5915 Rhodes Rd.**  
**Kent, OH 44240**