

# Profile .....



Joshua Offenhartz

**Action:**  
Philanthropy

**Location:**  
Tucson, AZ

**Initiative:** T.E.A.M. Tucson  
Concert

Joshua Offenhartz was inspired by the plight of the homeless people he met on the streets of Washington, DC while attending a *Panim el Panim* seminar. A junior in high school, Josh had not ever given much thought to the struggles of the homeless. But when he returned home to Tucson, Arizona after four days in the nation's capital, he was newly inspired and wanted to find a way to help the homeless teenagers he was now noticing on the streets of his hometown.

With a group of other students, Josh helped found T.E.A.M. Tucson (Teen Empowerment and Advocacy Movement), a group of teenagers committed to working together to help solve the problems of teen homelessness. They decided to organize a benefit concert to raise money for teens experiencing homelessness in the Tucson area. Soon, T.E.A.M. Tucson filed all the necessary paperwork to become a non-profit organization and developed a website.

After researching organizations that addressed the issue of teen homelessness, they decided to donate the money raised to a local organization, Our Family Services.

Josh recalls that, "When we started to plan the project it occurred to us that we may be in over our heads. It is a very hard thing to start your own non-profit organization, especially when all you have are six teenagers and a 31 year-old advisor. We made a lot of mistakes, learned a ton about ourselves and the concert business and rolled with the punches. Slowly, our concert began to take shape."

T.E.A.M. Tucson surpassed all expectations when they raised \$35,000 at their first benefit concert. They received help from the local radio station, the mayor, and drew a crowd of 3,100 people to the concert, which featured pop star Ashlee Simpson. The concert made headlines in every major Tucson paper, and on every local television channel.

