



The National Partnership for Community Leadership
"Strengthening Communities and Organizations to Serve People for the Future"

CASE STUDY 3

Mercedes and Ed

Mercedes is a 17-year-old mother in the Healthy Start Program. Her boyfriend, Ed, is an 18-year-old high school junior. He is a good athlete and is well-liked by his friends. Mercedes, like Ed, is ambitious and wants to go to college. She tells Ed they must sacrifice to provide regular childcare for their baby. Ed wants Mercedes to shoulder most of this burden so that he can get a scholarship to college, even if that means that Mercedes will have to drop out of school for now. He believes a college education will enable him to get a good job to support Mercedes and the baby better. However, Mercedes also wants to go to college and thinks it is unfair for Ed to expect her to shoulder the burden of childcare duties. Mercedes believes the child will be better off with two college-educated parents. However, her relationship with Ed could be ruined if she does not make the sacrifice. They are still determining the future of their relationship and how to plan to be successful co-parents.