Eventually teens will become young adults and move away from home. There are many issues surrounding apartment life. It’s time for Adventures in Apartment Life! Parents can help teens with the following tasks:

- Figuring out how much renting an apartment will cost.
- Deciding on the appropriate apartment – there are apartment guides, real estate agencies, and newspaper ads listing lots of different apartments in most cities; location, price and other benefits (pool, gym, water, sewer provided, etc.) must be considered.
- Filling out rental applications and signing lease agreements.
- Understanding the consequences of breaking a lease.
- Knowing your rights as a tenant.
- Understanding the security deposit and what it will cover.
- Getting utility service – deposits and types of service are important to understand; whom should you call if something happens to interrupt the service?
- Understanding renter’s insurance – what is it and how much should you get? will it cover everything you own or just some of it?

How will this activity promote the parent-teen relationship?

This activity is based upon sharing knowledge from one person to another. Your teen needs guidance and information from you. This is a way for you to openly and honestly discuss matters that are important and a way for you to spend more quality time.

Being an adult is not something teens know how to do without practice. Offering teens experiences that gradually increase their ability to manage greater responsibilities is a way for parents to help their teens become competent adults. When parents’ offer support and respect for their teens’ growing independence, teens often will show more respect and support for their parents.

Keep this in mind . . .

- Try hard to keep these discussions from being lectures. Casually involve your teens in financial aspects of your life (such as paying bills or balancing a checkbook) rather than sitting them down and overwhelming them all at once.
- Make sure your teen feels comfortable asking you questions about anything s/he is interested in.