

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood

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NEWS & VIEWS

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MRPP Rallies in Defense of Reproductive Freedom

Reproductive rights supporters weren't distracted by rainy weather, an NBA play-off game or the NFL draft. None of those April 29 factors deterred participation in the Rally in Defense of Reproductive Freedom.

About 80 men and women waved signs and chanted in front of the Shelby County Courthouse, demanding greater access to birth control and fewer restrictions on abortion.

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood co-sponsored the rally to raise awareness of the battle being waged on choice, said President Barry Chase.

During his speech, Chase urged opponents to "recognize the realities of sexuality and reproductive health and help us in our common mission."

"If you really want to reduce the frequency of unplanned pregnancies and abortions, join us in this fight to ensure that emergency contraception is available everywhere immediately," he said.

Among those in attendance were members of the newly established Vox®: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapter at the University of Memphis.

Student involvement is key in preserving reproductive rights for future generations, said MRPP Community Affairs Manager Christie Petrone.

"Young adults realize that they will be most affected, for better or for worse, by legal decisions being made today," she said. "Choice has been guaranteed throughout their entire lives, and they are unwilling to sacrifice that."

Feminist activist and Vox member Maya Nitis spoke about her commitment to choice, urging others "to stand together peacefully and show this country that we will not allow self-determination to be taken away."

Other co-sponsors included the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, the News and Letters Committees and the Nashville chapter of the National Organization for Women.



Photo by Guillermo Umbria©

Colposcopy, Cryotherapy Now Available



Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood is offering colposcopy and cryotherapy services, common gynecological follow-up procedures for abnormal Pap smears. These cancer-screening services are now affordable to women who would otherwise not be able to obtain them, and MRPP already has performed more than 20 of these procedures.

Colposcopy is used to detect abnormal cells and tissues of the cervix, vagina and vulva. Cryotherapy and loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) are treatments for abnormal growths on the cervix. Cryo destroys abnormal tissue by freezing it, while LEEP removes abnormal tissue by cutting it away using a thin wire loop that carries an electrical current.

Left untreated, abnormal cells can develop into cervical cancer. However, treatments for precancerous abnormal cells are highly effective. MRPP recommends that women undergo regular Pap tests and follow up on any abnormal results.



MRPP volunteer and intern Julia Dobbins (far left) was crowned "Head Vagina" in Rhodes College's production of "The Vagina Monologues."



Above: Vox®: Voices for Planned Parenthood students at the University of Memphis protest a gruesome anti-choice display. Right: MRPP Nurse Leah Smith (left) and Community Affairs Manager Christie Petrone (right) pose with Rep. Beverly Marrero at the State Capitol.





MRPP Health Educator Courtney Gafford (left) facilitated educational sessions for four groups of freshmen students at Huntingdon High School in Huntingdon, Tenn. Students learned about sexually transmitted disease symptoms and treatment, as well as ways to prevent infection. Courtney was invited to facilitate these sessions because of a recent increase in pregnancy and STD infection at the school.

National HIV Testing Day A Success

Free HIV Testing Now Available Every Day

In observance of National HIV Testing Day, Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood offered free rapid HIV testing June 27.

MRPP tested 75 men and women in the health center, in addition to those tested throughout the city in collaboration with the Community HIV Network.

MRPP is now able to offer free HIV testing every day, thanks to a recent grant from the Community HIV Network.

All individuals who are or have been sexually active are encouraged to be tested. MRPP provides HIV counseling, resources and information to protect people's health and the health of their partners.

Join
Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood
as we honor Judy Ringel
with the Robert James Award!



Thurs., Sept. 28
Elfo's
3092 Poplar Ave.
\$75 per person

Call (901) 725-3015
for tickets.

In Brief

- MRPP welcomes Casey Thompson, Ella Horton, Nicole Walthour, Nora Boone and Robin Rasmussen to its FY2007 board.
- Kudos to MRPP volunteer Christy Swatzell on the establishment of a University of Memphis Vox®: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapter.
- Best wishes to Health Educator Courtney Gafford at her new position with the Hyde Foundation. Courtney has been with MRPP for four years.
- Sincere thanks to Vox volunteer Lindsay Eason for her advocacy efforts on National HIV Testing Day.
- In June, 185 doses of emergency contraception were provided to patients. EC can prevent pregnancy up to five days after unprotected sex.
- Memphis was recently chosen as a pilot site for the National Youth Advocacy Coalition's Regional Youth HIV Testing Campaign. Health Educator Mikki Cobbins will represent MRPP in the program.



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NEWS & VIEWS



Delois Bolden, assistant manager, infectious disease section (STD/HIV/AIDS), presented Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood President Barry Chase with the “Light of Hope Award” on behalf of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, on June 5, 2006.

MRPP was selected as the 2005 recipient for its distinguished service in support of HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention.

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department recognized MRPP’s “outstanding community service efforts in raising the level of awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.”

Check us out on the web—www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis