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Greater Memphis
Region**

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NEWS & VIEWS

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Generous Donor Gives PPGMR \$100,000

Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region received \$100,000 on Nov. 15 from the Roy and Virginia Ralston Fund at Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

Virginia “Ginger” Ralston, 83, said she believes strongly in the importance of educating the public about the effects of unintended pregnancy and unwanted babies.

Her belief in a woman’s right to choose was influenced in part by a relative with severe health ailments who would have faced life-threatening prospects if she had be-

come pregnant. Because abortion was not yet a legal option, the woman’s physician forced upon her an improper sterilization procedure, which resulted in death. The woman’s two existing children suffered tremendously.

“If she had had the right to immediately terminate a pregnancy that could have killed her, she could have lived,” Ralston said.

The argument that an egg is a person is akin to believing that



PPGMR Board Chair Kate Gilliland Connell (right) accepts a \$100,000 donation from Ginger Ralston (left).

an acorn is a tree or that a blueprint is a building, Ralston said.

The donation is unrestricted and will be used to subsidize reproductive health care for those unable to pay, as well as for marketing services to those in need.

“Part of the problem is that people don’t know what type of services are available to them,” PPGMR President Barry Chase said.

Ralston said she had been intending to donate to PPGMR for a long time.

“It has always been my priority to give to causes like this,” she said.

Bob James Award Presented To Cohen

Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region presented U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen with the third annual Bob James Award during a Sept. 20 reception at The Palm Court. The event raised \$20,000 to benefit PPGMR’s programs.

In acceptance, Cohen emphasized his support for affordable reproductive health care. “Birth control and access to it are so important to the future of this world,” he said.

Photos from the Bob James Event, Page 2



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Seventy-five people turned out to congratulate Congressman Steve Cohen (above) on receiving Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region's highest honor. The Bob James Award honors an individual's unwavering support of the ideals of Planned Parenthood.

Pam Saavedra and Liz Rincon (top right) pay tribute to Cohen's achievements in reproductive health care.

At right, PPGMR President Barry Chase welcomes University of Memphis Vox® President Christy Swatzell (left) and PPGMR Materials Review Committee Chair Anna Bess Sorin, Ph.D., to the celebration.



State Senator Beverly Marrero (far right) pauses for a photo with (left to right) Jenni Falkof, Susan Chase, Gail George and Susan Thorp.

New Employees Join Management Team

Director of Clinic Services Tarsha Elliott, RN, BSN, brings experience and professionalism to our health center.



Director of Development Scotta Allen coordinates fundraising activities and cultivates donor support.



Condom King, Queen Coronated at Ceremony



Silky O'Sullivan (left) crowned Tom Prestigiacomo and Camille Patterson (right) the Condom King and Queen during the Oct. 13 Coronation Ceremony at Ernestine & Hazel's. Above (l-r): David Kelley, Andy Falkof and Nate Nowak enjoy the event, which was organized by board member Nora Boone.



Birth Control Pricing Causing Crisis

A change in Medicaid law is causing unforeseen hardship on low-income women who depend on college health clinics and safety-net providers for affordable birth control.

A provision in the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2006, which went into effect in January 2007, adversely affected the ability of universities and safety-net providers to purchase contraceptives at a discounted price.

Previously, Congress had permitted pharmaceutical companies to offer the reduced-price drugs to ensure that lower-income women had access to affordable prescription drugs. Safety-net providers purchased the drugs at a discounted rate and then passed the savings on to clients.

The inadvertent ef-

Vox® President Interviewed About Burden of High Cost

Planned Parenthood's student organization at the University of Memphis is helping bring attention to the birth control pricing issue.

Vox®: Voices for Planned Parenthood President Christy Swatzell was interviewed by WPTY reporter Rebecca Medina:

"Like myself, many students don't have health insurance so we rely heavily on the university health centers to provide safe, adequate health care options, particularly birth control," Swatzell said.

"Food is a basic necessity and we have to sustain ourselves. So if we have to choose between refilling our birth control one month or eating, obviously we're going to eat. We shouldn't have to make that decision."

fect of the DRA was a significant rise in the price of birth control. In some cases, the cost of a one-month supply rose from \$5 or \$10 to \$40 or \$50.

The potential consequence of unaffordable birth control is an increase in the rate of un-

intended pregnancies.

Contact your legislators today and urge them to support a no-cost, technical fix that would restore drug manufacturers' ability to offer deeply discounted prices to safety-net health care providers.

In Brief

- Congratulations to board member Keenon McCloy, who was appointed by Mayor Herenton as the new director of the library system.
- PPGMR and Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee received a grant to hold the second annual Live Action Camp for Vox® students. The event will be held April 5-6, 2008, in Memphis.
- In September, Planned Parenthood staff, board and volunteers disseminated information and condoms at the Cooper-Young Festival, while also providing free HIV testing. Thanks to all who gave their time to spread our critical message of prevention.
- Tremendous thanks to our fall interns Kristin Wheeler and Andrea Throne for their hard work and dedication.
- PPGMR is initiating new parent education sessions, a series of workshops that help parents open a dialogue with their children about sexuality. Call (901) 725-3033 for details.



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NEWS & MEDIA



PPGMR volunteers (left to right) Sheredith Fountain, Laura Meek and Ora Malone provided assistance during HIV testing at the Orange Mound Community Services Center on World AIDS Day. Almost 40 people were tested and educated about safe sexual behaviors.

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