

SINCE THE ELECTION

The need for us to strengthen our organization and make our services available to everyone who needs us is more critical than ever.

While President-Elect Obama supports reproductive rights, the local anti-choice movement will fight even harder against us. They will raise a lot of money to be used in angry commentary against us and to pay for lobbying to prevent us from doing the great work we do. They will continue to attack women and their access to healthcare. They will not spend a dime on useful services that help women make educated decisions and live healthy lives.

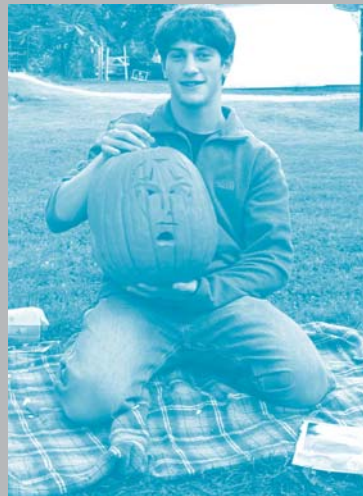
Unfortunately, with a new anti-choice majority in the Tennessee General Assembly, we will likely lose federal funding and fewer women will have access to reproductive services. We anticipate the introduction of an incredible number of bills designed to limit access not only to abortion services, but also to affordable birth control and comprehensive sex education programs.

As a result, we will need to call on you, our supporters, for more help. We need your financial support and we need you to talk with elected officials about the importance of our work. Without you we will not be able to continue the successes of the past few years, to achieve our goals and to fight to protect your access and rights.



THANKS FROM THE PG-13 PLAYERS

The PG-13 Players would like to thank Michael Worthley-Seldon for sponsoring a pumpkin carving party for the Players. After seeing the PG-13 Players Premiere in September, Michael was moved to support the group this unique way. The teens had a great time getting into the Halloween spirit!



PG-13 Player Sam shows off his creation.

The PG-13 Players are teen actors from Nashville Area high schools who develop and perform skits dealing with a variety of teen issues. If you would also like to support this group of incredible teens or have them perform for your organization, please contact Kayce at kaycem@ppmet.org or 615-345-0952.

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FROM THE CEO

I am excited to update you about some of our accomplishments over the past two years:



*Jeff Teague
President and CEO*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We increased our total patient numbers by nearly 15% each year for the past two years, with family planning patient numbers increasing by 20% over that same period. We now provide reproductive and sexual healthcare to almost 16,000 clients yearly.
- We provided free HIV testing on both National HIV Testing Day and World AIDS Day, testing more than 200 people.
- We held five Free Pap Days to provide screenings for cervical cancer with a grant from the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.
- We began providing Gardasil[®] vaccination against HPV to prevent cervical cancer.
- We trained four doctors in the delivery of abortion care, including a resident from Brown University Hospital in a Medical Students for Choice[®] Externship Program.
- We expanded to early second trimester abortion services in Nashville.
- We began providing medication abortion in Knoxville last September.
- We provided approximately \$55,000 in loans from our JP Davis Fund to poor and low-income women for abortion services.
- We have finalized agreements with Vanderbilt and Meharry Medical College for residency training programs where we host residents and provide practical hands-on experience in family planning and abortion care.
- Our Education programs reached 14,000 teens, 500 professionals, and 200 parents.
- Our PG-13 Players performed 124 times reaching 7,500 teens.
- We started FYI, our peer education program in Knoxville. Eight teens made over 850 contacts where they passed on important education and advocacy information.
- We began providing education programs in the Tri-Cities and into Elizabethton.
- One of our staff members is now a regular guest on a Spanish language radio station and is known as "The Sex Lady" in the Hispanic community in Nashville.
- We were awarded a Rape Prevention Grant from the State of Tennessee to educate people about rape prevention and healthy relationships.
- We stopped anti-choice legislation from passing in the General Assembly and defeated efforts to eliminate our Title X funding.
- We sent 12 action alert messages through GetActive, our email activist alert network, to 2,900 people that resulted in nearly 52,000 letters and emails to legislators.
- We co-hosted two Live Action Camps with Planned Parenthood[®] Greater Memphis Region in Nashville and Memphis and have plans for one in 2009 in Knoxville.
- We continued to receive grant funding for HIV vaccine awareness from the CDC to educate the public about the HIV vaccine trials being conducted at Vanderbilt.
- We completed an ambitious five-year Strategic Plan.

GOALS AND CHALLENGES

Our Strategic Plan sets our path for the next five years, but we have immediate goals that you can help us achieve:

- Reach more diverse communities and increase programs in the areas we currently serve.
- Expand our services and programs to meet the changing needs of our clients.
- Develop and locate facilities in underserved communities.
- Strengthen our influence on public policy and continue to fight policy changes — locally and nationally — that erode reproductive rights and limit access to healthcare and comprehensive sex education.



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PRO-CHOICE = ANTI-CHILD? I DON'T THINK SO!

By Mark Huffman,
VP of Organizational Development, Education and Training

One day last spring in the halls of the legislature, pro- and anti-choice supporters were gathering (separately) to make their presence known at a hearing regarding a bill before the House. One anti-choicer, apparently lost and looking for her peers, was cheered by the sight of a young woman who was breast-feeding a baby on a bench. She approached the young mother with a smile to start a conversation of solidarity. Then the breast-feeding mother announced she worked for Planned Parenthood. The surprised “Does—Not-Compute” expression on the face of the anti-choice woman was quite a sight to behold!

Several months earlier, when another employee announced a planned pregnancy, there were reports of similar incidents of disbelief among anti-choice acquaintances and family members.

Apparently, it's anathema to some hard-core abortion opponents: How could people who work for that “anti-family” Planned Parenthood organization happily start families?

In the past 18 months there have been four new arrivals among PPMET employees, with two more on the way. The truth is PPMET is one of the most family-friendly organizations and group of people I know. We have a generous family leave policy, adhering to the Family Leave Act, even though by size we're not mandated to comply. Where feasible, employees with newborns are able to bring their babies to work. On school holidays, it is never a surprise to see an employee's child hunkered down over crayons in the conference room. And currently we're finishing work on a telecommuting policy that will allow some flexibility for those caring for families.

At PPMET, we do our best to “walk the walk.” Our pro-child policies are part of that pledge to honor all choices. So here's a shout-out to those recent arrivals, with gratitude for the dedicated work their parents do

Sofia (14 months)... Inman (4 months)... Sam (3 months)... Millie (3 months)...

Welcome to the PPMET family, young ones!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

❖ **In Honor of Sarah Palin” Donations Raise Thousands:** Wow! Planned Parenthood's supporters voted for choice with their pocketbooks this Fall: during September and October, over 300 Tennesseans donated online to Planned Parenthood “in honor of Sarah Palin” raising thousands of dollars to support reproductive rights in our community – over \$1 million was raised nationwide! More than half of those online donations came from men and women who had not previously given to Planned Parenthood. Thank you and welcome to our new pro-choice friends!

❖ **Cocktails for a Cause:** PPMET hosted a special, post-election, *Cocktails for a Cause* on November 18 at the Mad Platter in historic Germantown. Lobbyist Anne Carr was our special guest and spoke candidly about the election result and what it means for choice in Tennessee and beyond. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and please plan to attend the next *Cocktails* on January 27th to celebrate the *Roe v Wade* anniversary.

❖ **Election Follow-up:** As Jeff mentioned in his opening letter, we are facing some big legislative challenges in Tennessee. With an anti-choice majority in the General Assembly we anticipate passage of bills that PPMET has been successfully defeating in the last few years including abortion bans, waiting periods, and mandatory informed consent. We will also likely lose federal funding that has enabled us to provide affordable family planning healthcare to women who need it now more than ever.

Help us continue to provide affordable healthcare by making a donation to PPMET. There are three easy ways to contribute: complete the donation envelope enclosed in this newsletter; donate online at www.ppmet.org (when making a donation online all of your donation will stay here in Tennessee if you choose “donate locally”); or call us at 615-345-0952 to donate over the phone.

PPMET GETS GOLD TREATMENT FROM RHYMESAYERS ENTERTAINMENT



Julie, rapper SLUG, and Samantha.

By Samantha Blanchard,
PPMET Volunteer

On Saturday, October 25th, fellow volunteer Julie and I were fortunate enough to represent PPMET at an amazing live music event at the Wildhorse Saloon in Nashville featuring Independent rap/hip hop legends *Atmosphere*.

I was so thrilled when *Atmosphere's* label Rhymesayers Entertainment (rhymesayers.com) gave PPMET the green light to join them at this event with over 800 attendees. This was an invaluable opportunity for PPMET to reach out to people and touch base with attendees about all the great low-cost high-quality basic health and reproductive services PPMET offers. Many of the people who stopped by the table are currently employed, but have no health insurance. Learning about PPMET's sliding payment scale and how we help keep the whole family healthy was music to their ears. We

got a chance to meet with some great potential new volunteers, pass out lots of condoms (and Halloween candy), plus give people information about how to get involved with HIV Vaccine Research ongoing at Vanderbilt.

We got to see one of the greatest live shows currently touring - *Atmosphere* along with three other RSE label mates *Blueprint*, *DJ Rare Groove*, and *Abstract Rude*! Not only are these artists amazingly talented but they were also kind enough to stop by the table to pose for pictures at our table. The best part of the night for me came after the show, when I spoke with *Atmosphere's* amazing tour manager Randy. He told me that the tour would love to have local Planned Parenthood affiliates meet up with the show at the remaining dates on their US tour. Hopefully this outreach opportunity can blossom nationwide. I can't wait to hear stories from other affiliates!

Special thanks to PPMET's Community Outreach coordinator, Jessica for encouraging pursuit of this opportunity. I would also like to give special thanks and praise to the progressive hardworking team at Rhymesayers that helped make this possible: Jason, Jake and Randy.

WORLD AIDS DAY INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES

According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33 million people living with HIV worldwide, including 2 million children. During 2007 some 2.7 million people became newly infected with the virus. World AIDS Day was established December 1st, 1988 as a means to increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education about HIV and AIDS. The World AIDS Day International Film Series is proud to be part of that vital work.

In its second year, the World AIDS Day International Film Series presented a fresh lineup of thought-provoking media including film, First Person Theater, posters and music. Each evening a different country was spotlighted and an expert on HIV in that country moderated a discussion around the theme of leadership and the portrayal of HIV and AIDS in the film.

This year PPMET hosted the evening dedicated to Kenya, showing the film *Sons of Lwala* on Sunday, November 23rd. *Sons of Lwala* tells the story of Kenyan brothers Fred and Milton Ocheing, who were sent by their village to the United States to become doctors. Motivated by their community and parents they studied diligently at Dartmouth and Vanderbilt Medical School. Their work was driven by their dedication to finishing the village clinic their father had begun before both he and his wife died of

complications from AIDS. While in school, the brothers worked hard to garner support and funds, return home, and build their village's first health clinic. After viewing the film Fred Ocheing joined us for comments and Q&A.

Free HIV rapid testing was available each evening. In addition to PPMET's participation in the film series, we are also co-sponsoring World AIDS Day events on December 1st, including ONE Voice, presented by First Person Theatre group at Meharry Medical College's Learning Resource Center. For a full schedule or more information, contact Nashville CARES at (615) 259-4866 or go to worldaidsdaynashville.org.

EVENTS YOU CAN'T MISS

Looking for something to do the day before Thanksgiving? PPMET hosts “Sextastic Voyage” on Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 9:30pm at Mad Donna's in East Nashville. “Sextastic Voyage” is an journey through time and space with a DJ spinning tracks that will take you front, back, and side-to-side. All of the songs have one theme in common: sex! This is PPMET's first ever Vox® Rox concert to raise funds for its Volunteer Program and Vox®: Voices for Planned Parenthood Chapters. Only \$10 at the door/\$5 with student ID.

To commemorate World AIDS Day, PPMET will hold a vigil to honor Tennesseans affected by HIV/AIDS in front of Centennial Park on West End Ave on December 1st from 5:30pm-7:30pm. In addition, PPMET will be offering FREE HIV testing on December 1st in both of our health centers. For more information in Nashville call 615.321.7216 and in Knoxville call 865.694.7155.

The month of January is dedicated to the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, and is full of exciting opportunities:

- January 16th: *Roe v. Wade* themed Vox® Rox concert fundraiser at The Rutledge downtown on 2nd Ave South featuring singer-songwriter Gretchen Peters.
- January 21st: *Roe v. Wade* demonstration & *Cocktails for a Cause* in Knoxville.
- January 22nd: *Roe v. Wade* demonstration in Nashville.
- January 27th: *Cocktails for a Cause* in Nashville with a special guest speaker.

For more information on any of the events listed above, please call PPMET at 615-321-7216 or 1-866-627-2448.

TAKING PPMET TO THE STREETS!

On October 4th, PPMET staffed a booth at Nashville CARES' AIDS Walk at Bicentennial Mall. More than 1,500 people attended the walk and CARES raised over \$186,000 to provide support to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and prevention education. Thank you to Lyndsey, Kayce, Chimene (and toddler Zack) for being super-volunteers!



Chimene and son Zack.

During the Presidential Debate at Belmont University on October 7th, Julie, Corey, Emi, Sofia, Chimene, and Zack volunteered for our “Issue Alley” table. We encountered more support than ever at a tabling event, but we also faced more blatant anti-choice attacks than ever. It was an eye-opening experience! We were happy to be included in this national event.

If you would like to be part of the Volunteer Team at PPMET, contact Jessica at jessicad@ppmet.org or 345-0952 today!

EAST TENNESSEE EDUCATION UPDATE

By Ginny Ramseyer Winter

Knox County High Schools

PPMET is celebrating the expansion of our education programs into Knox County high schools! We submitted five lesson plans this past July, all of which were approved by the school district for high school students in Lifetime Wellness classes. The topics are: reproductive anatomy, pregnancy prevention (including contraception), HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and healthy relationships. The comprehensive lessons are designed to reach students who have different learning styles by utilizing a variety of interactive

activities and teaching methods. PPMET's educators are available by request to Lifetime Wellness teachers in all thirteen schools in Knox County.

Peer Education

For Your Information (FYI), Knoxville's peer education program, is recruiting for the spring 2009 group. FYI teens are responsible for attending 40 hours of comprehensive sexuality training, 100 educational peer contacts, and completing a community photography project. For more information about FYI or how to get involved, please contact Ginny Ramseyer Winter at (865) 694-7155 ext.3 or ginnyw@ppmet.org