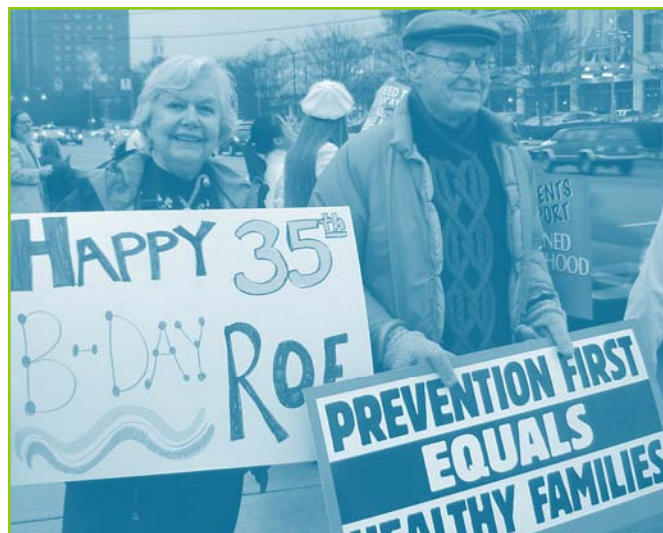


## HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY ROE V. WADE

January 22, 2008 was *Roe v. Wade's* 35th Anniversary. In Nashville, we wanted to be the highlight and not the sidebar to Nashville's Right to Life gathering on Capitol Hill. We wanted to give more Nashvillians the chance to witness the support for women's reproductive healthcare and be able to show their support as well. To do that we moved our demonstration from the Capitol to West End Avenue, in front of Centennial Park. Not only did we reach more passersby, but we also grew our demonstrator numbers to 45! There was rain and frigid temperatures, but we were fierce! We got so many honks and thumbs up in support of our "Support Roe" message that it was difficult to leave at 5:30 pm. After we packed up, we headed to Cocktails For a Cause at Germantown's The Mad Platter Restaurant to warm up, enjoy some hors d'œuvres, drinks, and great company with 80 other PPMET supporters.

The rally was covered by Vanderbilt's campus news media as well as Channel 4 News. It was a wonderfully positive experience for all involved!

In Knoxville, we held a *Roe* Rally too – the first in some time! Ginny Winter, Knoxville Educator, and her intern Hillary Barry, put together a demonstration from 4 to 6 pm on the Cumberland Strip, near the 16th Street intersection and the UT Law School. They held signs in support of *Roe* and had several volunteers and PPMET supporters join them. The honks and waves of support buoyed their enthusiasm and kept them just warm enough to stay out in the wintry weather until six.



Supporters on West End (top photo). Longtime PPMET friends and advocates Berdelle and Earnest Campbell braving the cold in Nashville.

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### FROM THE CEO

In January, I was flattered to be asked by the *The Tennessean* to write an Op Ed for the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Instead of writing about SJR 127, the proposal to amend Tennessee's Constitution to remove privacy protections and criminalize abortion, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind readers that abortion rights are part of a larger conversation about basic human rights and about our responsibility in protecting those rights.

My editorial appeared on January 13, 2007. It is reprinted below in its entirety. I hope you find it thought-provoking and that it inspires you to get involved in the fight against attempts to strip Tennesseans of cherished privacy rights and protections.



Jeff Teague  
President and CEO

#### We Must Affirm Basic Constitutional Rights

American citizens are blessed with incredible rights and freedoms. But the debate around abortion forces us to examine who we are as a nation.

Is America committed to promoting fundamental human rights? Are we outraged by attacks on our Constitutional rights? Do we amend our Constitutions to limit rights or expand them? Do we honor the privacy rights of families? Do we respect women and their reproductive rights?

Through several court rulings, including *Roe v. Wade*, Americans agree that the freedom to decide the number, timing and spacing of children, under what circumstances to have or not have children, and the right to abortion, are rights guaranteed in our Constitution

However, abortion rights are constantly under attack by a radical and vocal minority, while a silent majority is not honoring its commitment to defending that right. From terrorist tactics of bombing clinics and assassinating doctors to passing legislation that denies and restricts reproductive rights, events over the past three decades suggest that we have been careless in our defense of fundamental human rights.

Abortion continues to be used as a political ploy to divide the American people, rather than a rallying point for protecting the Constitution, a document that guarantees our freedoms, not one that limits them.

#### A History of Defending Rights

America has a proud history of taking the lead in promoting and defending human rights, including reproductive rights, around the world. We were shocked and repulsed by the "one-child" policy of China that forced women to have abortions against their will. But, here in America, there are constant attempts to pass laws that would force women to have children against their will.

In Tennessee, the practitioners of the politics of fear and intimidation are trying to remove privacy rights from our state Constitution and make abortion illegal. Now is the time to speak up. Honor your commitment to defending rights. Tell your lawmakers that you will not let them trample on the rights of the women of Tennessee.

Recently, the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute released the results of a comprehensive study that reviewed abortion rates around the world. It concluded that abortion rates are similar in countries where abortion is legal and where it is illegal. Outlawing abortion and turning women and their physicians into criminals doesn't stop abortion: it just drives women to drastic measures.

This is a fact all too familiar to people in this country. Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, we heard countless stories of women so desperate that they risked their health, future fertility and even their lives to obtain abortions, usually under horrible conditions.

So, should America take its place in the company of the enlightened nations that protect rights? Should we be outraged by these attacks on our rights? Do we fight attempts to restrict rights and criminalize abortion?

Absolutely! We have to defend these rights, including the right to abortion, or sadly we join the ranks of countries like Iran, Libya, the Sudan and Syria who disregard human rights and abuse their citizens.

Jeff Teague

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## CECILE RICHARDS, ASHLEY JUDD TO HEADLINE PPMET GALA

PPMET is excited to announce that **Cecile Richards, President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, will appear as the Keynote Speaker for PPMET's 2008 Gala in the Garden. Ashley Judd will serve as our Honorary Chairperson.** Both of these women are passionate defenders of the right to choose.

The daughter of former Texas Governor Ann Richards, Cecile Richards was raised in a family committed to social justice and public service. Like her mother, Cecile's feisty spirit, honesty, and drive have propelled her through life, compelling her to fight for women's rights. This will be Cecile's first appearance in Nashville since she assumed the PPFA presidency in 2006.

When not performing in blockbuster movies, Ashley is an avid supporter and activist for many causes, devoting a great deal of

her time promoting HIV/AIDS prevention and supporting pro-choice organizations.

*Gala in the Garden* is set for **Thursday, May 8, 2008**, at Nashville's Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art. Individual tickets as well as individual and corporate table sponsorships will be available.

For more information or to reserve tickets to *Gala in the Garden*, call or email Carolyn or Jeanna at 615-345-0952 or [jeanna@ppmet.org](mailto:jeanna@ppmet.org).



Cecile Richards Ashley Judd

## FYI: PEER EDUCATION IN KNOXVILLE

**FYI**, our new peer education program in Knoxville, is in full swing. Eight peer educators were chosen after an application and interview process. The teens meet every Monday night to fulfill their 40 hours of training and have educational contacts with their peers each week. Their training includes in-depth information about comprehensive human sexuality, including: anatomy, reproduction, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy options, healthy relationships, sexual assault prevention, body image, peer pressure, and more. They use the knowledge and skills they learn in training to provide correct, comprehensive information to their peers.

When asked why peer education is important, two of the educators said,

"I believe that sexual education is extremely important. I believe that adolescents are not as informed as they should be."

"Forced ignorance has shown itself to be ineffective at preventing pregnancy and STIs."

This first group of teens will finish their training and educational contacts with a celebration on April 24th. The event will reveal their final project to the community and celebrate their graduation from the program. More information to come!

## PPMET WELCOMES CAROLYN EDRINGTON

PPMET is proud to welcome Carolyn Edrington as the new Vice President of Development. Formerly a Special Events Manager with AID Atlanta, Carolyn brings extensive experience in fundraising to Nashville, along with a lifetime commitment to the goals and mission of Planned Parenthood.

Carolyn will be focusing on our major donors program, leading PPMET toward strategic growth. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Kennesaw State University and in her spare time enjoys running, knitting, and traveling with friends and family. Carolyn joined PPMET in August and is looking forward to getting to know our family of donors. She invites all supporters to call her or Jeanna Emert in the PPMET Development Office at 615-345-0952 at any time with questions, comments, or suggestions. Welcome, Carolyn!

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 105th General Assembly is back in full swing and our opponents are doing everything they can to restrict reproductive rights in Tennessee. We are tracking a number of bills closely and working with reasonable legislators and our coalition partners to kill bad bills and promote positive ones. One bill in particular, SJR127, has received a lot of media coverage and is taking a lot of our time and attention.

SJR127, the proposed constitutional amendment to ban abortion in Tennessee, passed the Tennessee senate on January 30th, 2008 with a vote of 23 to 9. SJR127 would amend the Tennessee Constitution to specifically outlaw abortion if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned. Senators, led by Diane Black (R-Gallatin) and Doug Henry (D-Nashville), amended SJR127 to appear to make exceptions for victims of rape and incest and women who are facing life-threatening medical conditions. Do not be fooled — their amendment does absolutely nothing to protect these women! As passed by the Senate, SJR127 does not include any exceptions for rape, incest, or life of the mother. SJR127 is an extreme proposal and the amendment is meaningless for the women of Tennessee.

While we've lost the war on the Senate side (as we have every time SJR127 has been introduced there), the battle is beginning in the House. Proponents are already pressuring House members to sign-on as co-sponsors for SJR127. It's critical that you contact your house member NOW! Ask them NOT to sign-on as a co-sponsor, and to vote NO if they are asked to support it. You can find your legislator and sign-up to receive our 'one-click' action alerts on the main page at [www.ppmet.org](http://www.ppmet.org).

## DO YOU HAVE PROPER ATTIRE?



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PROPER ATTIRE™ condoms come three to a pack and are sold at boutique shops and exclusive hotels. They are also available at Planned Parenthood health centers and will soon be sold online. The suggested retail price of a three-pack is \$6.00.

Don't forget to wear your PROPER ATTIRE™!

This Valentine's Day marked the first day of National Condom Week (February 14 to 21) and the premiere of Planned Parenthood's new, stylish condom: PROPER ATTIRE™. With chic, fashion-forward packaging, PROPER ATTIRE™ is designed to appeal to women's sense of style and to encourage them to take charge of their own sexual health.



## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION: IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE!

This is about teen pregnancy. I've got some bad news, and some good news.

You've probably heard the bad: Nationally, after 13 straight years of declining teen pregnancy rates, they rose last year. And then there are headlines about Jamie Lynn Spears: a young star, everything going for her, 16 — and pregnant.

These recent developments are enough to make parents and adults wring their hands. We don't want teens to get the wrong message from this young star about teen pregnancy. And it could well be the national trend is again heading in the wrong direction.

But here's the good news: Parents are not powerless. And as a community, we know what to do. It's actually pretty simple, though not always easy.

A recent study by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy looked at what influences teens' dating relationships. Guess who's number one? That's right: parents. Parents have more sway than any other influence. That's more than media. More than friends. More than your teen's boyfriend or girlfriend.

In order to have maximum influence over their teens' choices, it helps when parents strike a balance as they communicate with their children: On the one hand, teens benefit when parents are very clear about their values and expectations. On the other

hand, it helps when parents listen to their teens, not just talk. Young people need the opportunity to express their own thoughts and feelings as to what they're facing. When the parent-child relationship combines openness, firmness, and warmth, a connection is formed that can overpower the negative influences of media and peers.

As a community, we also have some influence. Schools, religious organizations, and agencies need to create a unified front that helps teens avoid pregnancy. We can make it clear that we want teens to wait to have children. We can provide teens with information about postponing sex, and about preventing pregnancy. We can go beyond information to teach our youth the skills to make wise decisions, and to be strong in their relationships. We can make available to teens the medical services they need to maintain their health and prevent pregnancy. Finally, we can give our young people hope: Dreams for the future—and the feeling that achieving these dreams are possible—are among the best deterrents to teen pregnancy.

The good news is, this isn't rocket science. Families, communities, and even entire countries have proven that teen pregnancy need not be a given. We can give our teens the power—that is, the values, knowledge, skills, and resources—to once again get the teen pregnancy trend going in the right direction.

— Mark Huffman,  
VP, Organizational Development, Education and Training