

## LIVE ACTION CAMP

Live Action Camp was a resounding success! We had about 20 participants converge on our Nashville office. Hailing from Vanderbilt, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, and Rhodes University, students were here to learn about reproductive rights advocacy from PPMET!

Christie Petrone, from Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood, and Jessica Dauphin, from Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee, came together to offer this amazing experience to the attendees.

It was a non-stop day of advocacy, networking, and learning from each other. Activities included lectures and workshops around messaging and media, recruiting and retaining members, online organizing, and a Burma Shave demonstration on West End Avenue in front of Centennial Park in Nashville. Students were able to connect with the mission and vision of Planned Parenthood in a comprehensive and meaningful way.

The students left in high spirits and were incredibly grateful for the experience. The success of this year's Live Action Camp gives us confidence that next year's (to be held in Knoxville or Memphis) will only be better!



Live Action Camp participants at the Capitol.

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### FROM THE CEO

To paraphrase Charles Dickens from *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It is the best of times. It is the worst of times." At the same time we received some disheartening news regarding access to abortion care, we are reminded about great hope and promise in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Jeff Teague  
President and CEO

As you all know, the Supreme Court recently ruled in *Planned Parenthood v. Gonzales*, a challenge to the Federal abortion ban passed by Congress in 2004. The Court criminalized a rare procedure, the so-called partial birth abortion, that medical groups including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Nurses Association say can be medically necessary.

For the first time since the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the Court has handed down a ruling that ignores and unravels more than thirty years of precedent — judicial decisions that gave due respect to the health of women.

In her dissenting opinion, Justice Ginsberg wrote, "Today's decision is alarming. It tolerates, indeed applauds, federal intervention to ban nationwide a procedure found necessary and proper in certain cases... It blurs the line...between previability and postviability abortions. And, for the first time since *Roe*, the Court blesses a prohibition with no exception safeguarding a woman's health."

She continues, "Instead, the Court deprives women of the right to make an autonomous choice, even at the expense of their safety."

With this 5-4 ruling, a sharply divided Supreme Court has permitted the government to intrude on the doctor/patient relationship. Now, instead of the woman and her doctor deciding the best, safest, most hopeful course of action, politicians who know nothing about her condition will decide. This gross intrusion into private family medical decisions mirrors the government's attempt to interfere in the case of *Terri Schiavo*.

While we are disappointed by the Court's disregard for the health and safety of women, we continue to fight on. And one of the most important fights is the fight against HIV/AIDS.

For the past three years, PPMET has received a grant to conduct community education and outreach about the HIV Vaccine Research Program at Vanderbilt University. The program is part of the global research effort that offers great promise of finding a preventive HIV vaccine.

As you read this issue of the *Flash*, try to imagine a world without HIV/AIDS. Imagine the great hope offered to so many who suffer from this disease that has ravaged so many countries and communities around the world.

This is why PPMET is so happy to be a partner in this effort. It is an obvious part of our mission – to educate and empower people to be in control of their lives by protecting themselves. And, we know that when people are empowered they are able to provide for themselves and their families.

I hope you will learn more about our efforts to help in the global fight against HIV/AIDS and that you will join us in that fight.

And remember – No apologies! No retreats!



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## IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS

PPMET has again received a grant allowing us to partner with the Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Trials Unit to raise awareness about HIV Vaccine Research and educate our community on the need to become involved in helping to end this global pandemic. The fight isn't over — get informed about the current research and most importantly, talk to your friends and family about it. So that someday, our children and grandchildren can live in a world without AIDS.

## WHAT IS A PREVENTIVE HIV VACCINE?

A preventive HIV vaccine is a substance that teaches the body's immune system to recognize and protect itself against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Preventive HIV vaccines currently being tested in humans are made from man-made materials that cannot cause HIV infection. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection.

The long-term goal is to develop a preventive HIV vaccine that is 100 percent effective, protecting everyone from infection. However, even if a preventive HIV vaccine only protects some people, it could still have a major impact on controlling the worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic.

With the help of those behind the science, progress has been made toward developing a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. Currently, there are more than 20 HIV vaccine candidates in various stages of testing. Yet, there is still no vaccine. All Americans, especially at-risk populations such as communities of color and those who are sexually active, need to learn more about HIV vaccine research and be a part of making an HIV vaccine a reality.

The search for a preventive HIV vaccine offers everyone the hope for a future world without HIV/AIDS.

### THE FACTS

- Currently, there is no HIV vaccine available.
- HIV vaccines being tested in humans DO NOT contain the HIV virus; therefore, the vaccines CANNOT cause HIV infection.
- Individuals who volunteer for an HIV preventive vaccine trial must be HIV negative.
- The best long-term hope for controlling the AIDS pandemic is the development of safe, effective and affordable HIV preventive vaccines.
- In order for an HIV preventive vaccine to work for all people, diverse individuals must participate in clinical trials.
- A comprehensive approach to controlling the AIDS pandemic includes prevention strategies, care and treatment improvements, and HIV vaccine research.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP IN TENNESSEE?

- Educate yourself about HIV/AIDS by speaking with an educator at Planned Parenthood, or visit [aidsinfo.nih.gov](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov) for information on prevention, treatment and research.
- Visit [betheneration.org](http://betheneration.org) or [hivvaccineresearch.com](http://hivvaccineresearch.com) and learn more about vaccine research and the studies currently under way in Tennessee. Once you know more, talk to your friends, family and coworkers about HIV/AIDS and let them know that you support HIV vaccine research.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Josh Barnes, Community Educator, Vanderbilt Vaccine Program.

On May 18, 1997, President Clinton urged the people of our nation to work together to end health care disparities and find a safe, effective preventive HIV vaccine. Ten years after his proclamation, we have not accomplished either. Not yet.

While the world still awaits a vaccine that will stop AIDS, there is reason to be optimistic. Our science is progressing. There are two major Phase II trials and a single Phase III trial in progress that are testing different experimental vaccines. Communities are learning the facts about HIV vaccine research and more people are giving their time and volunteering their effort to join in the search for an HIV vaccine.

Despite our best efforts in creating systems of behavior change and the development of new treatments, approximately 5 million new infections occur annually. AIDS has always been the disease of the disenfranchised, the poor, the stigmatized, the hated, and the discriminated against. Organizations like Planned Parenthood know that.

Planned Parenthood's long-standing grassroots community education and patient care programs, as well as its international support of comprehensive sexual healthcare and women's rights, create the perfect opportunity to provide on-going education, community-involved ethical research, and future access to an effective vaccine. Planned Parenthood is committed to a vision of health care that guarantees equality and emphasizes human rights. This makes Planned Parenthood the perfect partner in the quest to find an HIV vaccine.

I have no doubt that the world will one day have a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. Planned Parenthood's continued partnership with our program will mean that when the world has that vaccine, women, girls and other communities that trust Planned Parenthood will have a means to access that vaccine.

The world needs a bridge between the concepts of behavior science, treatment, grassroots advocacy and vaccine research. The collaborative effort between Planned Parenthood and the Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Research Program is beginning to build that bridge.

If you are interested in learning more about HIV vaccine research, please feel free to call 322-HOPE or 1-888-559-HOPE, or visit [betheneration.org](http://betheneration.org).  
— Josh Barnes



Sample Materials from PPMET's HIV Vaccine Awareness Campaign.

## PPMET WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

PPMET is proud to welcome John Auston Bridges, Harris Gilbert, and Sandra Roberts to our Board of Directors.

**John Auston Bridges** is the author of the highly-regarded *How To Be A Gentleman: A Contemporary Guide to Common Courtesy* and co-author of 12 other books in the *Gentlemanners* series. He previously was Director of Cultural Affairs in the Nashville Mayor's office, and currently serves as Communications Advisor to Mayor Purcell. He is well-known as the founder of Artrageous and is a past recipient of the Human Rights Campaign Community Leadership Award.

**Harris A. Gilbert** is a lifelong resident of Nashville, Tennessee, and has a long career as a practicing attorney. He is a former president of the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Foundation, and Legal Aid of Nashville. He has served on numerous boards and was president of the Jewish Foundation and The Temple in Nashville. His interests are golf, bicycling and walking. His wife, Dianne Gilbert, former president of Planned Parenthood in Middle Tennessee, passed away in 2005. He has two children and two grandchildren.

**Sandra Roberts** joins the PPMET Board after retiring from *The Tennessean* where she worked for 31 years most recently as the Managing Editor for the Opinion section. She is a past recipient of the Amicus Award from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and helped organize the first Law School for Journalists sponsored by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Sandra has also recently joined the board of the Tennessee Justice Center.

Please join us in welcoming John, Harris, and Sandra to the Board!

## KNOXVILLE VOX

On Wednesday, March 28th, 2007 the Women's Coordinating Council at the University of Tennessee hosted an abortion debate in the University Center Auditorium. Professor Jennifer Hendricks from the UT College of Law moderated the debate between Belinda Bulger, Deputy Legal Director for NARAL Pro-Choice America and Mary Hallan-FioRito, Executive Assistant to the Archbishop of Chicago. Over three hundred people attended the debate — an attendance record for the WCC. The debate stayed at a civil level, and there was only one instance of an audience member attempting to grandstand during the question-and-answer period. UT VOX members helped publicize the event and turn out pro-choice supporters. Congratulations on a great event!



## 2007 FAMILY LIFE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

**Louise Bailey**, a Family and Consumer Science teacher at John Overton High School, has been named PPMET's 2007 Family Life Educator of the Year. **Denise Sanders** with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program of the Giles County Health Department and **Rhonda Sternfels**, a Health teacher at Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville have been honored as runners-up.

The Family Life Educator of the Year Award, established in 1992, recognizes educators who offer family life and human sexuality education in an exemplary manner. Criteria for selection include creativity, use of a variety of resources, and an emphasis on the values of responsibility, respect, and healthy decision-making.

During her tenure at John Overton, Louise Bailey has successfully integrated the topic of sexuality into a curriculum that also includes lessons in self esteem, goal setting, and community building. Mrs. Bailey works with a diverse student population using creative and interactive teaching methods to maintain a non-judgmental learning environment where students feel comfortable discussing the sensitive issues of sexuality. She successfully weaves discussions of sexual decision making, sexual health, and communication into daily sessions to help students connect information to situations beyond the classroom. One John Overton student reflects, "Mrs. Bailey is one of my favorite teachers because she cares about her students' decisions that are made outside of school. After thinking of doing some stuff that [was] not the right thing to do, she has given me helpful ideas on what to do and how to deal with it."

As coordinator of the Tennessee South Central Region Department of Health's teen pregnancy prevention programs, Denise Sanders has implemented a variety of initiatives to promote healthy decision making, healthy relationships, and overall sexual health. She has been a leader in providing support and valuable information to program participants in Giles County. One student at Wayne Middle School says, "Ms. Sanders taught me that abstinence is the best choice, but if I decide to have sex, always use protection. We only have one body and we have to care for it."

As a health educator at Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville, Rhonda Sternfels uses a variety of innovative techniques to engage and empower her students. She says of her work, "The big hang up most adults have when they hear the term "sex ed" is that the material being taught will encourage sexual behavior. On the contrary, having knowledge gives individuals the confidence they need to make the right decisions as it concerns their own body's health and welfare."

PPMET commends these educators for their outstanding efforts to teach responsible sexuality education in a creative and sensitive manner. The 2007 honorees will receive cash awards and special recognition at upcoming Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee events.