

FUNDRAISING AND THE FUTURE

This August our fundraising staff, Jeanna Emert and Carolyn Edrington, traveled to Minneapolis for the annual Planned Parenthood Development Officers Council Conference. Nearly 150 development professionals from almost every Planned Parenthood affiliate came together for a week of sharing, learning, and networking opportunities. This was a great opportunity for Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee to become more involved in our national programs and spend time with successful fundraisers from larger affiliates who shared invaluable information that will help us expand our services.

They returned from Minneapolis with a renewed commitment to our Culture of Giving. Everyone involved with Planned Parenthood — staff, board members, volunteers — will participate by giving time, money, and expertise to help us achieve our mission of healthcare, education, and advocacy for Tennessee. Planned Parenthood offers meaning — not just a job or health services or volunteer hours. Our clients are also an important part of that culture. To that end, we're proud to announce that Planned Parenthood is launching our 2008-2009 Health Center Campaign where our family planning clients will be given the opportunity to invest in Planned Parenthood with a donation of \$1 or more.

You will notice some changes in the next few months: more personal contact, fewer mailings, updated, easier-to-read materials and more opportunities to get involved online. Your support truly makes our work possible; and your feedback is appreciated. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Carolyn or Jeanna at 615.345.0952.

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FROM THE CEO — Here We Go Again!

For the past seven years, the current Administration has been relentlessly engaged in an assault on reproductive rights. Outrageous attempts have been made to limit abortion rights and to deny women and teens birth control and critical, life-saving information.

And the attacks never stop. In fact, just last month, the Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) proposed regulations that would severely limit access to reproductive health care and birth control.

Under the guise of protecting the rights of health care workers, DHHS released guidelines for the enforcement of the 2005 Weldon Amendment. That amendment says that any State or local government, organization or sub-contractor cannot discriminate against health care workers who religiously or morally oppose abortion or sterilization.

On the surface that sounds reasonable and even fair. But when you dig a little deeper, you discover that the regulation deliberately does not define abortion. Previous drafts of this regulation had defined abortion as “any of the various procedures, including the prescription, dispensing and administration of any drug or the performance of any procedure or other action, that results in the termination of life of a human being in utero between conception and natural birth, whether before or after implantation.”

The newly written HHS regulation is intentionally vague. By leaving abortion undefined, the regulation creates a dangerous space for ideology and political views to be inserted into medical practices, emergency rooms, and clinics all across the country, and when that happens, women suffer. This proposed regulation leaves health care services and information open to personal interpretation and political agendas.

So what does that mean in layman's terms? Basically it means several things: 1) workers who oppose abortion and sterilization can refuse to provide any information on these services to clients; 2) any form of birth control, from pills and IUDs to emergency contraception and tubal ligations may be defined as abortion; and 3) the Bush Administration is attempting, in the last few months of their term, to put politics into your exam room.

I know that the millions of women who use some form of birth control on a daily basis will be shocked and dismayed to learn that their attempts to control fertility and prevent unplanned pregnancy may now be defined as abortion.

So what happens if these regulations are implemented and enforced? Millions of women and teens may be denied access to birth control pills, IUDs and any other form of contraception. Victims of rape will be denied access to or even information about emergency contraception. Funding that provides critical family planning services to millions of poor and low-income Americans may no longer be available.

So what can you do to stop the outrageous attack on women's health care? As I often do, I'm asking you to contact your elected officials in Washington. If you aren't already a member of our online activist action network, visit ppmet.org to sign-up. Members will receive updates on this issue and will be instructed on the best way to contact their legislators. Also, to respond directly to DHHS Secretary Leavitt on the proposed regulation, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on 'comments or submission' and enter the keywords 'provider conscience', or email your comments to consciencecomment@hhs.gov. Let him know that birth control is not abortion, and demand that he stop this attack on women immediately!

As always, keep up the fight. Remember: No Apologies! No Retreats!



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THE PG-13 PLAYERS: TRAINING TEENS TO BE PEER EDUCATORS



The 2008-2009 PG-13 Players.

the PG-13 Players this summer!

In addition to the workshops and presentations, the PG-13 Players developed and wrote five educational skits that will be performed throughout schools and organizations in Nashville, TN. The students decided on the topics most important for youth to learn and talk about: alcohol and drug abuse; sexual decision making; being a gay teen; body image concerns; and healthy relationships. The skits are performed for an audience who then engage in discussion with the characters and a facilitator about the topic at hand. Students watch their peers enact realistic situations and then continue to learn from them in a post-discussion performance, leading to an educational experience infinitely more interesting — and effective — than a typical classroom session.

For two weeks this summer, 23 students gathered to learn about issues ranging from sexuality to adoption to eating disorders. The goal of this intensive training was to prep the students for their upcoming challenge — bringing these hard-hitting issues to the classrooms and organizations of Nashville. This group of students, known as the PG-13 Players, is comprised of high school teens from all over the city — one even commutes from Murfreesboro! In fact, this season's group of teens is diverse in many ways. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and the proud class of 2012 all make up this season's Players.

This mix of experience and knowledge allowed for many learning moments. Having more experience, the returning, older students stepped into leadership roles, while the newer members were able to internalize information and ideas they may have not been exposed to before. One example is that of Hume Fogg Senior, Jaimie Glatt. Glatt sat transfixed, with her mouth wide open as an educator from Planned Parenthood discussed the female and male reproductive anatomy. "I had no idea it did all that!" she exclaimed, smiling after the presentation.

The PG-13 Players were fortunate enough to receive training from knowledgeable and helpful community educators from Nashville CARES, the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee, Community Nashville, Miriam's Promise, the Sexual Assault Center, Tennessee Lives Count, and the Nashville Police Department. Many thanks go out to everyone who worked with

To kick off the 2008-2009 season, the PG-13 Players will host a Season Premiere on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00pm at the Belcourt Theater in Hillsboro Village. So, if you're interested in seeing these inspiring teens take the stage — come on out! Admission is free, but donations are always accepted. Want more information or interested in scheduling a performance for your group? Please contact Corey Ann Seldon at coreys@ppmet.org or 615-345-0952. Thank you for continuing to support the PG-13 Players and Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee!

PG-13 PLAYERS' PREMIERE AT THE BELCOURT THEATRE

This free premiere will kick off the 22nd season of the PG-13 Players — a theatre troop of Nashville area teens that perform at schools, churches and synagogues, parent and teacher groups and civic organizations. The premiere will showcase the students' newly created skits — developed and written by the teens themselves. Topics this year include: what it's like to be a gay teenager; the family struggles and peer pressure of alcohol and drugs; the decisions that factor into having sex; society's constant focus on body image; and the story of an abusive relationship. Bring a friend, grab a seat, and watch these incredible teens perform! Questions? Contact Corey Ann Seldon at coreys@ppmet.org or 615-345-0952.

WELCOME COREY ANN SELDON



Please join PPMET in welcoming our newest staff member, Corey Ann Seldon. Corey, a 2003 graduate of Hume Fogg Academic High School in Nashville, attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a degree in Public Relations from the Communications Honors Program. There she fell in love with all things burnt orange and began her career in education and outreach.

In Austin, she had the opportunity to participate in a theater group much like the PG-13 Players called Voices Against Violence (VAV). While working with VAV she facilitated

performances on topics ranging from racism to domestic violence to sexual education. Upon returning to Nashville, she worked with the YWCA's Domestic Violence Shelter and at the Oasis Center in Nashville.

When she saw the posting for the Coordinator of PPMET's PG-13 Players, she leapt at the opportunity to work with such a revolutionary program. She firmly believes that students have the power to advocate for themselves and the ability to educate their peers. Corey jumped right in to the thick of things with the teens — they like to joke about her obsessive love for anything related to the University of Texas and her consistently high energy and applause for their work. She looks forward to having a fantastic season and seeing you all out supporting the Players!

A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING: TEEN LIVE ACTION CAMP 2008

Earlier this year our Community Affairs Coordinator Jessica Dauphin and Knoxville Health Educator Ginny Winter conceived the idea of a Live Action Camp geared specifically for high school students. With two very successful teen peer education programs under the PPMET belt, why not integrate the education of our youth with the knowledge and power of advocacy? Thus, Teen Live Action Camp (TLAC) was born!

On the afternoon of Thursday, July 24th, at The Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC), a two day lock-in event called TLAC commenced with ice breakers and improv games. Ginny presented four very interesting and informative workshops that covered anatomy, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, and abortion 101. Teens in attendance really applied themselves to the activities, absorbing the information and engaging in thought-provoking discussions.

Overnight activities were led by our dedicated volunteers from the



TLAC couldn't have happened without our Knoxville volunteers — they were vital to the planning and execution of the event. The UT Vox® chapter even held several fundraisers for TLAC to help PPMET offset some of the cost!

Knoxville area — many of them from University of Tennessee's (UT) Vox® chapter and veterans of our Live Action Camps held in the spring of 2007 and 2008 — Sarah Rose Peacock, Sarah Singleton, Tory Mills, and Daphne Lin. They kept the teens focused on charades, cake decorating, and sex-ed jeopardy.

Early on Friday morning everyone headed over to the UT campus for a two hour hands-on lesson in conducting a Burma Shave. Their signs read "Let's Talk About Sex, Baby, Sex Education in Tennessee," "Honk for Sex Education," and "Every Voice Counts, Register to Vote Today!" Following the Burma Shave they went directly to the pedestrian walkway on campus and set up a table to get some in-the field experience with outreach education including handing out condoms, voter registration, petition-signing, and signing people up for our online action alert network.

The experience was exhilarating and the teens responded with great enthusiasm. Jessica and Ginny are excitedly planning a second TLAC for 2009 — stay tuned!



Sunday, July 27th, the Tennessee Valley UU Church (TVUUC) suffered an unimaginable tragedy when a man walked into the sanctuary during services and opened fire with a shotgun. He killed two adults and wounded several others. On that day, services had concluded with a performance of *Annie, Jr.*, a culmination of a summer theatre camp at the church. Many of our young TLAC participants were members of the TVUUC and actors in *Annie, Jr.* We mourn the loss with TVUUC and the families and friends touched by this tragic event, and we offer our support during this difficult time.

PPMET GOES TO WASHINGTON!

As an accredited affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, PPMET is invited and encouraged to attend regional and national conferences. Jessica Dauphin, our Community Affairs Coordinator, recently attended a combined meeting of the Planned Parenthood Network of Volunteer Administrators (PPNOVA) and the State Public Affairs Network (SPAN) in Washington, D.C. Recognizing that our grassroots activists (volunteers) are often our most politically active supporters, this combined meeting aimed to develop skills and provide tools to Planned Parenthood staff to continue successfully organizing and energizing our supporter base.

As part of the meeting, Jessica, along with Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood's Public Affairs Coordinator Christie Petrone, participated in PPA's Lobbying Day on the Hill. They were able to visit Steve Cohen (D-9th), John Tanner (D-8th), Jim Cooper (D-5th),

and Bart Gordon (D-6th) at the Capital. They talked to these Representatives and/or their staff about the importance of low-cost birth control and argued against the proposed Health and Human Services rule change that could redefine birth control as an abortion (see this month's letter from the CEO for more info).

Jessica reported that "All of these Representatives are honorable men who seek to serve their constituency to the best of their ability. They and their staff were welcoming and listened to our concerns regarding birth control and the proposed HHS rule change openly." Congratulations Jessica!



Representative Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) with Jessica Dauphin (R) and Christie Petrone (L) in Washington, DC in July.