

January 22 was the 34th Anniversary of the benchmark Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade. Successfully argued by 25 year-old Sarah Weddington, the decision finally recognized the American woman's right to her own body. In commemorating the anniversary this year, PPMET wanted to make a pro-active statement. In addition to battling the bitter cold while standing outside the Capitol witnessing the annual Tennessee Right to Life rally, we partnered with Nashville's Chapter of the National Organization for Women and held a Pledge-for-Choice Campaign. The Pledge-for-Choice was a combination fundraiser and awareness raiser for choice supporters here in Tennessee. For one whole week volunteers camped out in our offices to call supporter after supporter. We spoke to Tennesseans about PPMET and NOW, and about the choice landscape here in Tennessee. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. Together with NOW, we raised over \$6,000 to be split between our organizations. The funds raised for PPMET will be used in our Rev. J.P. Davis Fund to help women with financial need access safe and legal abortion services.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

- Bev Leiser, Chair
- Amadou Sall, Vice Chair
- Ceci Sachs, Secretary
- Dr. Lorayne Lester, Treasurer

- John Bridges
- Pamela Burton
- Dr. Susan Dodd
- Harris Gilbert
- Sally Levine
- Dr. Marian Patton
- Timothy Quain
- Sandra Roberts
- Elizabeth Slagle Todaro
- Rachel Woods
- Stacy Nunnally, Intern

FROM THE CEO

In the last issue of the Flash, I told you about a report released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy titled, *By the Numbers: The Public Cost of Teen Childbearing*. The report details the incredible cost that teen childbearing imposes on the country not only socially, but also economically. It highlights the failure of the current administration to make wise investments of tax dollars by funding programs that provide low cost healthcare and comprehensive sex education.



Jeff Teague
President and CEO

A few weeks ago, President Bush released his new budget, and, instead of fully funding the Title X Family Planning Program, he once again has left Title X under-funded. In fact, since he took office, he has not increased funding for Title X, the Federal program that provides low cost reproductive and sexual healthcare services and birth control to millions of women and teens each year.

Funding for Title X has remained flat at \$283 million annually since 2001. With more people demanding services and the costs of healthcare continuing to rise at alarming rates, the result in reality is a decrease in terms of real dollars available to provide low-cost birth control.

We know, for example, that ever dollar spent in family planning programs to provide affordable birth control and to prevent teen pregnancies, saves three dollars that would be needed for other healthcare and welfare programs. **By fully funding Title X at \$385 million, we could save as much as \$1 billion in other costs.**

The current administration also continues to promote abstinence-only sex education programs, despite the fact that such programs have been proven to provide few, if any, returns on the huge investment of taxpayer dollars. In fact, the President's budget increases funding for abstinence-only programs by another \$75 million.

On November 21, 2006, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published a strong editorial criticizing the many problems with federally-funded abstinence only programs: "While the abstinence-only industry is burgeoning, so is the rate of sexually transmitted diseases among teens and young people. Almost half of the 19 million new infections each year occur among 15- to 24-year-olds. That's an outrage. The incoming Congress ought to demand that HHS base its public health policy on reputable research rather than political pandering."

These programs also provide limited results in terms of preventing teen pregnancies. Again, compare the results from the US with those from countries in Europe that provide comprehensive sex education and you can see that spending on abstinence-only sex education has not been a good investment.

By the Numbers summarizes all of this very well, saying, "Teen pregnancy and childbearing have significant economic and social costs. ... reducing teen pregnancy will both benefit the national and state economies, as well as improve educational, health and social prospects for this generation of young people and the next. Prevention offers a terrific return on investment and represents sound fiscal policy. ... progress in reducing teen pregnancy and child bearing will not only improve the well-being of children, families and communities, it will free up funds that can be invested in other priority areas."

So, please contact your representatives in Congress and demand that they allocate \$385 million to fully fund Title X. It's time that we fund and expand family planning services and make sure that all young people receive comprehensive sex education.

Honestly, we can't afford to do otherwise!!!

Remember: No apologies! No retreats!

If you are interested in learning more about *By the Numbers: The Public Cost of Teen Childbearing* the report can be found at www.teenpregnancy.org/costs.



Nashville Health Center
412 D.B. Todd Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203
phone: 615.321.7216
fax: 615.320.5233

Knoxville Health Center
8078 Kingston Pike, Ste. 153
Knoxville, TN 37919
phone: 865.694.7155
fax: 865.694.7154

Education & Training Services
Knoxville Area 865.385.3333
Nashville Area 615.345.0952

Administrative Office
50 Vantage Way, Ste. 102
Nashville, TN 37228
phone: 615.345.0952
fax: 615.345.0958

www.ppmet.org

**We're More
Than You Think.**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 2491

Planned Parenthood®
of Middle & East Tennessee, Inc.
50 Vantage Way, Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37228

FIVE PG-13 PLAYERS SELECTED FOR 2007 YOUTH SUMMIT

Five of PPMET's PG-13 Players (our teen theatre troupe) have been selected to attend the inaugural PPFA Young Leaders Summit. 100 teens from over 40 states and five countries applied to attend this two-day Summit at the March 2007 PPFA Annual Meeting in Universal City, CA.

During the Young Leaders Summit, our teens will have an opportunity to network with and learn from other pro-choice youth leaders as well as contribute to PPFA's efforts to develop a National Youth Advocacy Taskforce. Teen peer education programs have proven to be some of the most effective ways to teach youth about reproductive health and sexuality, and the PG-13 Players program has been recognized as one of the best in the country.

The teens who will be attending the Young Leaders Summit this March are: Sequina Caro, Erin McDonough, Kaitlin Moore, Emily Tan, and Corbin Williams. They will be accompanied by Teen Theatre Coordinator Kayce Matthews and educator Ben Bolling.



The 2006-2007 PG-13 Players.

KNOXVILLE'S WORKING!

By Jenny Rowh Fairchild
Health Educator, Knoxville Area



Education and outreach are thriving in Knoxville. As a community educator, I continue to lead workshops with a variety of Knoxville groups including churches, schools, and various other community organizations. A recent highlight was working with a youth group at a local church as they embarked on a 10-week human sexuality program. It was moving to see a faith community talk openly about sexual health and decision-making, as well as emphasize that human sexuality is a gift to celebrate, nourish, and protect. I especially treasure my on-going work with the Madisonville Girls Home. The more I see these girls on a regular basis, and many of them are residents for over a year, I am able to develop a closer relationship with them and the group. This also allows us to go beyond the basics of sexual and reproductive health and delve into deeper topics of self-esteem, relationships, and setting and achieving goals.

I always enjoy providing outreach to higher education institutions, including Maryville College, Roane State Community College, and both the Knoxville and Chattanooga campuses of the University of Tennessee. The most requested lecture is one I deliver on contraceptive choices. As part of the workshop, students work in small groups to create a "commercial" for an assigned method of contraception. I am constantly impressed with the level of creativity and wit the students use to produce skits, catchphrases, logos, and even theme songs. In a recent skit, a young man knelt down to offer his partner a ring: a NuvaRing vaginal contraceptive device, that is. Now, that's what I call romance!

Participating in health fairs and special events not only allows me to offer information on various health topics, but also allows me to promote the many services provided by our Health Center. Sometimes I will recognize a past health fair attendee as she or he visits our clinic. While these moments are few, they always bring with them a reassurance that the good work going on in Knoxville continues to promote Planned Parenthood as a leader in sexual and reproductive health.

If you or an organization you know are interested in taking advantage of all the Knoxville Education Department has to offer, please contact me, Jenny Fairchild, at 865-694-7155, ext. 3.

LIVE ACTION CAMP HERE AGAIN



Taking it to the street during the 2005 Live Action Camp

Student activists from across the state will converge on Music City this Spring. What brings them here? Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee, of course. PPMET has partnered with Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood to host a Live Action

Camp that is open to students from across the region. From the University of Memphis to East Tennessee State, from Western Kentucky to University of Tennessee of Chattanooga, students are being invited to come to Nashville to learn what it means to be an activist in Tennessee and beyond.

Classes and workshops will include pointers on campus organizing, holding burma shaves, and communicating with lawmakers. The Live Action Camp will wrap up with a tour of the State Capitol and a Burma Shave for Prevention Awareness in Tennessee! It is sure to be a riot – meant in the very best way!

SPRING INTO COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE AT THE MAD PLATTER!

PPMET invites all supporters to join us on Tuesday, April 3rd, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm in Nashville, for Cocktails For a Cause, our groundbreaking young professionals event! We are excited to host the first Cocktails of 2007 at The Mad Platter, located at 1239 6th Avenue North in historic Germantown. Your donation of \$25 to PPMET includes appetizers, drinks, and a chance to win a prize playing Birth Control Trivia! Join us to meet new friends and learn more about what PPMET does in our community!



To reserve your tickets for Cocktails for a Cause at the Mad Platter, call 615-345-0952 or email jeannae@ppmet.org. (Cash, credit cards, and checks will be accepted at the door.)

PPMET JOINS GIVINGMATTERS.COM

PPMET is proud to be a part of GivingMatters.com, a revolutionary project of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Through the website, www.givingmatters.com, donors in our community can explore profiles of nonprofit organizations, including information about programs offered, management and leadership, and financial strength. New PPMET donors can see where their dollars are most needed, while current donors are able to see concrete examples of the good work their generosity is supporting. PPMET invites all supporters and activists to visit www.givingmatters.com and search for "Planned Parenthood".

ABRIENDO NUEVOS HORIZONTES / SPREADING OUR WINGS

By Emi Canahuati
Director of Education and Training



We have begun to act on our goal to increase outreach to the growing Latino community in our service area. This is not an easy community to reach as the topic of sexuality is quite taboo, and there is not a historical relationship between PPMET and this particular segment of the community. PPMET is working to develop a better relationship with the Latino community so that we can be a good resource for their reproductive healthcare. I have been appearing on local Spanish-language radio stations answering questions about sexuality, reproductive healthcare and communication between parents and children about sexuality. I have received a great response and am currently working on establishing a regular appearance on

at least 2 of those stations. In addition, PPMET has partnered with several other community organizations doing outreach into the Latino community in an attempt to increase awareness and access to our reproductive healthcare services and information. Good news: all of my hard work is beginning to pay off! Since my appearances on radio programs and guest articles in Spanish language print media, PPMET has been receiving more telephone inquiries from Spanish speakers seeking our services. It will take time and effort, but PPMET will forge meaningful and lasting relationships with Latino communities.

Habla Español? Would you like to help? Please, call 615-345-0952 and ask for Emi or Jessica.

PPMET'S EMERGING LEADER



Samantha Blanchard

Samantha Blanchard, PPMET volunteer and 2006 Planned Parenthood Federation of America Volunteer of the Year, has been chosen along with only a handful of others across the United States to be a part of a new PPFA coalition — The Emerging Leaders Task Force. The Task Force is made up of young leaders from all regions of the country. They will be working together with PPFA and local affiliates to bring volunteerism to the next level.

The Emerging Leaders Task Force will meet for the first time March 28-30th at the National Conference in Los Angeles, California. There they will be discussing how to grow social capital by widening the volunteer base and retaining volunteers; how to recognize volunteers with energy, initiative and potential, and groom them for a more intense relationship with Planned Parenthood and further activism. This process will help cultivate current volunteers into becoming members of affiliate boards or staff members.

We are proud of Samantha! She got her start with us at PPMET. Samantha is a star example of what PPMET's commitment to volunteers can achieve!