



Voice for

Choice



A publication of Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette (PPCW)

WINTER 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AROUND THE HEALTH
CENTERS

PAGE 3

'NO' ON PROPOSITION 73

PAGE 4

ON THE FRONT LINE FOR
YOUTH

PAGE 4

TEEN COUNCIL SUCCESS!

PAGE 5

A TEEN'S STORY

PAGE 5

COME TO THE
FOURTH ANNUAL
PLANNED PARENTHOOD
LUNCHEON HONORING
ROE V. WADE



WITH ELEANOR CLIFT
JANUARY 19, 2006

Taking a Stand to Protect Our Youth

A message from David Greenberg, Ph.D., President & CEO

You already know that Planned Parenthood helps teenagers make responsible choices, abstain from sexual activity until they are ready, and, once they are ready, have all the knowledge and information they need to make good decisions. Our goal is to reduce the need for abortion and enable young people to be more comfortable talking about sex than you and I were at their age. But you may not be familiar with all the services we offer young people.

PPCW's education programs encourage teens to learn about healthy sexuality and, through the Teen Council Peer Education Program, share what they learn with

their friends, parents, and peers. With all the media focused on how "sexy" sex is supposed to be, we help change teens' attitudes toward sex so that they wait longer before becoming sexually active. And when they do have sex, we teach them how to use condoms and other birth control methods to prevent disease and pregnancy (see related article, page 5). Our nurses and doctors provide young people who are beginning to engage in sexual activity with safe contraception methods as well as accurate information on safer sex. We truthfully answer their questions with care, compassion, and without judgment so

they feel safe coming to Planned Parenthood.

PPCW also serves as a resource, for parents as well as teens, because even parents who have good relationships with their children sometimes still need help talking about something as sensitive as getting pregnant, abstaining from sex, relationships, birth control, or abortion. Planned Parenthood increases and eases communication—between parents and teens, among teens, and with other professionals who teach and counsel young people. In addition, we publish

...continued on page 2

The Alito Nomination: Can We Stop Him?

The confirmation proceedings for Judge Samuel Alito, President Bush's most recent nomination for the Supreme Court, are underway. If confirmed, we believe that Judge Alito would radically transform the Supreme Court and create a direct threat to the health and safety of American women.

While Alito has tried to assure the Senate and the public that he supports the precedent established by the 1973 landmark

Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, it is clear from his past writings that he actually supports a strategy of gutting *Roe* piece-by-piece. For example, in November it was revealed that Alito penned a memo in 1985 that outlines a legal and political strategy to erode and eventually overturn *Roe*. In the memo, Alito advises against a frontal assault on *Roe*, but instead suggests a

...continued on page 4

FROM THE DESK OF David Greenberg

Taking a Stand to Protect Our Youth

...Continued from page 1

pamphlets, books, and web-based information that is medically accurate and easily accessible. If you haven't visited our web site in a while, please take a look at www.ppcw.org or our national resource for teens, www.teenwire.com.

Recently, PPCW helped the California Planned Parenthoods defeat a ballot initiative that would have endangered the health and safety of young people. Proposition 73 would have required doctors to inform a teen's parents before performing an abortion or forced the teen to go to a judge to receive a judicial waiver. While most teens talk to their

parents in times of crisis, all teens, including those living in troubled homes, must have their health protected. PPCW volunteers made thousands of phone calls to California voters to tell them how important it was to protect teens' safety. One of our field organizers, Carmen Schwisow, moved to California for a month to help defeat this ballot measure (see related article, page 4).

Oregon may face a similar challenge to our teens' safety in the coming year. Speaking as a parent of two great children, and as CEO of PPCW, I, like you, want to be involved in my children's lives. Like all parents, I want what is best

for my children. The most effective way to protect our teens is to begin talking about responsible, appropriate sexual behavior from the time they are young. It's important to create a home environment where our children feel safe coming to us for advice and guidance. But, I know some children can't or won't confide in their parents, and I want to ensure that those teens get safe, accurate information and unbiased counseling from caring medical providers. Planned Parenthood is here to be that safe haven, and I am committed to making sure that we continue to lead the

way in protecting the health and safety of all young people.

Please contact me directly by phone at 503-775-4931 x 201 or by e-mail at david.greenberg@ppcw.org if you have any questions or suggestions about how PPCW can do an even better job of serving teens in Washington and Oregon.



David Greenberg, Ph.D.,
President & CEO

Alito: Can We Stop Him?

...Continued from page 1

chipping away by supporting state-level restrictions on abortion access, with the ultimate goal of a future in which extreme restrictions on abortion would be upheld by the Supreme Court.

It won't be easy, but Planned Parenthood and other women's health advocates are fighting to stop this nomination and we need your help. We are asking every pro-choice Oregonian to send a message today to Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith.

Sample Message:

I urge you to oppose the confirmation of Samuel Alito as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. I am gravely concerned about the future of women's health and safety and strongly believe that Judge Alito will put our fundamental freedoms in jeopardy.

Contacts:

**Senator Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
20510
202-224-5244
wyden.senate.gov**

**Senator Gordon Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
20510
202-224-3753
gsmith.senate.gov**

Baby Boom

Are you having a baby or just had one? This year a record number of PPCW staff are pregnant or have recently become new parents (see below). You, too, can dress your newest bundle of joy in fashionably chic Choice Merchandise.

Just go to www.ppcw.org/store to view and purchase items from this unique pro-choice collection.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Around the Health Centers

Expanding Access to Our Services

Expanded Health Center Hours

Planned Parenthood's health centers receive over 7,000 patient visits each month, which is an 8 percent increase over this time last year. As a result, we've expanded our hours of service at our busiest health centers. In October, our Salem Health Center began offering Sunday appointments, making Salem our first health center open seven days a week.

Patients appreciate these extended hours that better fit their schedules. In January, the Southeast Portland Health Center will dramatically increase hours of operation by 26 hours a week, including Sundays. In February, the Beaverton Health Center will expand morning hours on Mondays and Tuesdays, and include exam visits on Saturdays, while the Northeast Portland Health Center will be open every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Go to www.ppcw.org for details.

Improved Access to Abortion Care

Our Abortion Appointment line is a great success. Due to demand and PPCW's goal of ensuring better access for patients, we are now taking calls Monday through Saturday. In addition, continuing our commitment to increased access, we have hired Spanish-speaking staff to better serve more of our patients. Our abortion care is currently 10 percent over projections. Forty percent of the abortion care we provide is medication abortion, the "abortion pill."

Expanded Counseling Services

This fall, PPCW expanded counseling options for our patients. Through the use of second-year Masters of Social Work and Masters of Counseling students currently enrolled at Portland State University or Pacific University, patients can receive face-to-face or over the phone counseling at no charge. The student counselors assist patients on a wide array of issues for as many sessions as needed. As with our other professional training

programs, these counseling students are well versed in their studies and have appropriate on-site and referral supervision. Patients have commented on how grateful they are for this service.

"I just want to tell you how much it means to me that you exist. I recently had a miscarriage and I don't want to get pregnant again. I have...insurance... but they won't cover any family planning at all. My doctor told me it would cost \$829 to get an IUD which is way more than I could ever afford. If you didn't exist I don't know what I would do. Thank you so much for your radical, amazing, pro-woman work."

~PPCW PATIENT



Target gets a Thumbs Down from Planned Parenthood

Did you know that Target Corporation is standing by a company policy that allows pharmacists to refuse to fill valid, legal prescriptions for birth control, including emergency contraception?

We believe that Target's "refuse-and-refer" policy is unacceptable. Oregon women should be able to get prescriptions filled in any store, without discrimination or delay.

Until Target improves its policy, it will continue to receive a thumbs down from Planned Parenthood.

Learn More! www.fillmypillsnow.org

GET ACTIVE

Make your Voice Heard!

'No' on Proposition 73

Parental notification before a minor may obtain an abortion is among the most difficult policy issues facing decision-makers and voters in this country today. While few would deny that most teenagers would benefit from adult guidance when faced with an unintended pregnancy, mandated parental involvement laws have dangerous consequences that put teen lives at risk. That is why Planned Parenthood has opposed legislation and ballot initiatives that would create one-size-fits-all parental notification statutes.

Recently, Planned Parenthood and a coalition of health and youth advocacy groups mounted a campaign against Proposition 73, a parental notification measure

that would have dramatically amended California's State Constitution. Fortunately the measure failed by a vote of 52 percent 'no' to 47 percent 'yes'. Had the measure passed, it would have forced doctors to notify parents of teens under the age of 18 before providing abortion services, required a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours and would have written into the California State Constitution a definition of "unborn child, a child conceived but not yet born."

For more than four months, California Planned Parenthood affiliates, working with a broad based coalition, mobilized volunteers to contact thousands of voters about the dangers of Proposition 73. In addition, staff and volunteers from another

15 affiliates provided field support from afar. PPCW led phone banks from Oregon for nearly two weeks before the election and we also loaned a field organizer, Carmen Schwisow, to the campaign (*see related article below*).

Planned Parenthood fought to defeat this initiative because we believe measures like Proposition 73 put teens' health at risk. Planned Parenthood strongly supports parental involvement when teens make decisions about health care, contraception, and abortion, but parental notification laws do nothing to keep teens safe or promote family communication. Ironically, the real outcome of these laws is delayed medical care and counseling. Parents need real tools to help them

communicate openly with their children about healthy behaviors and sexual decision-making. What they don't need is government intrusion laws.

This November, Oregon voters may face their own parental notification ballot measure. Oregon Right-to-Life has filed two anti-choice initiatives, including a parental notification measure, and they have pledged to spend many thousands running a campaign. While we don't know yet if these measures will qualify for the November ballot, we are taking this development seriously and have begun to put together a coalition to defeat these measures. If you have questions, please contact the Public Affairs Department at 503-775-4931 x206.

On the Front Line: An Activist's Experience

PPCW has rarely, if ever, lent staff to other affiliates. We made an exception in this case because we knew that Oregon may face a similar ballot measure. Carmen Schwisow's experience in California will inform our campaign, should we need to run one.

The following is adapted from an interview with Carmen conducted by Anu Ponnamma on November 23, 2005.

How did you get to Los Angeles?

The Planned Parenthood Western States Field Manager sent out an 'all call' saying that Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA) needed a field person to help with the "No on Proposition 73" campaign. I applied because I love being in the field.

It was crazy to wrap up my life in a few days. I hadn't expected to do anything like this: I was in the middle of planning for 2006 and looking forward to the Fall, which I

love in Portland. Instead, I was in Southern California!

Describe what it was like when you got there and what you did.

When I got there, PPLA was running phone banks staffed by volunteers to



identify voters who would oppose Proposition 73. But, they needed more people to make the calls so I started to recruit additional volunteers. Within a month, we had grown the volunteer list from 800 to over 1,600. Our goal was to identify 20,000 'no' voters across the state of California. By the time we were done, we—along with the affiliates in Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Southern California—had identified 27,000.

...continued on page 6

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Let's talk about Healthy Sexuality

Teen Council Program a Success!

Training teens to serve as credible messengers to deliver information about healthy sexuality to their friends and families is the cornerstone of our Teen Council Peer Education Program. A recent outside evaluation of our program revealed that in addition to educating their peers, our Teen Council Peer Educators effectively enabled them to make responsible choices regarding their sexual behavior, including delaying sexual activity, and helped increase their comfort level when talking with adults about sexuality and sex-related issues. This past year our Teen Council Peer

Educators reached over 1,000 youth and adults in Portland, Salem, and Bend through workshops, presentations, and informal discussions about reproductive and sexual health.

In addition to this important work, our Teen Council Peer Educators are trained to deliver an eight-hour workshop using a curriculum called "Making Proud Choices." This past year our Teen Council Peer Educators delivered the program to 97 teens in three different settings that included high school classrooms, a class for Spanish speaking teens, and a program for

youth who are at risk of becoming homeless.

According to the outside evaluation, teens who participated in the workshop:

- Reported greater certainty of delaying sexual activity
- Increased their intentions to use safer sex practices when sexually active
- Reported feeling more comfortable communicating about sex with adults
- Increased their knowledge of condoms and birth control

These results confirm that peer educators can have a lasting influence on the behavior of their peers.

This coming year we will expand our Teen Council Program by adding one more site. We anticipate increasing by five-fold—to approximately 5,000—the number of teens reached by our peer educators. PPCW extends our thanks to the Teen Council Peer Educators and the many funders who have supported us as we continue to expand and develop an already successful program.

A Teen Council Peer Educator: Caitlin Howard's Story

When asked on a college application to describe a talent, experience, or personal quality, Caitlin Howard reflected on her experience as a Teen Council Peer Educator. The following is an excerpt from her application.

When I began working for Planned Parenthood to fulfill a community service requirement, the real purpose of PPCW was a mystery to me. I saw it merely as a symbol for choice and sex education, labels I wanted as a badge of liberalism, but I am no longer casually 'pro-choice' and 'pro-sex education.' My work with Planned Parenthood has allowed me to be a part of these issues.

While gaining an education in sexual health, I have also learned how to share this knowledge with various groups of people from my community. I've brought information into my own home and family, to my own school and classrooms, to my friends, and to classrooms full of students I've never met. I have now spent countless hours alone in front of people older, younger, and of my same age, explaining the wonders and complexities of sexuality. I have become aware of how delicate these issues are and how difficult it is to help others feel comfortable discussing them openly. In order to do so, I have had to learn a lot about

what it means to be a leader, to set an example, and to take risks. Once a shy little girl who always sat in the back and never raised her hand, I am now able to confidently stand before people I don't know and talk about one of the most awkward and uncomfortable subjects there is to talk about: sex.

As a member of the Teen Council, bringing important information to my fellow teens is so much more than just my volunteer work and I'm not trying to simply meet a community service requirement; I'm fighting for something I truly believe in. I have learned so much



through my experiences on the Teen Council, and it has helped me realize that, although I'm only in high school, I am also a citizen of the world and I can make a difference.

Caitlin Howard is a second year Teen Council Peer Educator who attends Lincoln High School, plays soccer, and completed an internship with Save Our Wild Salmon.

HIGHLIGHTS of Past Events

Margaret Sanger Society Dinner

Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Society is a leadership group of supporters who donate \$1000 or more annually. On Saturday, September 10th, 130 Margaret Sanger Society members heard Marcia Gillespie, former editor of *Ms.* and *Essence* magazines, and a national Planned Parenthood Board member, give an inspirational speech at the beautiful gardens of Drs. Jim Sampson and Geof Beasley in Sherwood. One board member wrote: "That night was certainly memorable: from wandering around the lush gardens, to discovering hidden ponds & sculptures, and from the wonderful international



Marcia Gillespie

education discussion at my dinner table to Marcia Gillespie's amazing speech. Also in there was a wonderful speech by David, to which my mother (my date) said 'I'm impressed!' I was, too."

Marge Piercy

On Thursday, December 8 more than 200 people filled the First Unitarian Church

to hear well known author and poet Marge Piercy read from her newest book *Sex Wars* (Harper-Collins, December 2006.) It was a uniquely PPCW feminist literary event. Marge was empowering, charismatic, funny, and moving. Almost everything she read focused on issues of contraception, abortion, and efforts by fundamentalist crusaders—then and now—to oppose us. The event raised almost \$10,000 for PPCW and was widely promoted in the media.

Choice Rocks!

Over 230 people came in costume on October 15th to dance to the tunes of DJ Teenage and The Doors of Perception at PPCW's annual dance party. More

than 30 community partners sponsored the event, and for the first time, a Polaroid photo booth and silent auction contributed to the fun.



Attendees were "greeted" at the ballroom by about a dozen protesters, holding large signs and "preaching"—another first. The event was covered in the *Portland Monthly*—yet another first and raised over \$10,000 for PPCW.

On the Front Line: An Activist's Experience

...Continued from page 4

I worked out of PPLA's East Side location, which, like PPCW's SE office, headquarters their administration and contains a health center. It was particularly invigorating to work within a Planned Parenthood location. Everyone was wearing buttons or had bumper stickers on their cars.

There were eight people on the campaign staff, six of us full time. I was the only one working on the campaign at PPLA who came from another affiliate. We coordinated efforts with our coalition

partners, which included the ACLU and NARAL Pro-Choice America. The campaign team would meet every morning at 10 a.m. and do a check-in and update.

How was it toward the end of the campaign?

We phone-banked until 8 p.m. on election night. We worked down to the final minute. The election party was intense because the results were so close and we didn't know until the very end that we had won by a narrow margin.

The next morning, we had our regular debrief at 10 a.m. and I looked around and realized it was the last time I'd be working with the team in this capacity. It was hard to leave. We had supported each other continuously and we were like family.

What did you take away from your experience?

Going down there renewed my commitment to reproductive rights and activism. It made me proud to work with PPCW because I realized we have one of the best field organizing

departments in the country. It was great to win and we couldn't have done the work that we did without out the volunteers, many of whom came to phone bank night after night, week after week.

Carmen Schwisow is the Washington and Multnomah Field Organizer for PPCW. She has been with the agency for three years. Carmen has also organized on Oregon state forestry issues for the Sierra Club and worked as a campus organizer for the Feminist Majority Foundation.

ON THE HORIZON

Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 19, 2006 **Planned Parenthood Luncheon**

Join other Planned Parenthood supporters for our largest and most exciting annual event—the Planned Parenthood Luncheon honoring the 33rd Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Guest speaker is *Newsweek* reporter and television commentator Eleanor Clift. Suggested minimum contribution \$75; Hilton Hotel Portland. For information or to make a reservation call 503-788-7277, e-mail development@ppcw.org, or buy tickets on our website at www.ppcw.org.

Tuesday, January 24, 2006 **Sexy Tuesdays**

5:30—8:30 p.m. at Crush: 1400 S.E. Morrison, Portland. Join this group of energetic PPCW volunteers who are creating a buzz among young professionals in the Portland area. Sexy Tuesdays are a series of events in fabulous, fun, and social settings designed to build a new generation of Planned Parenthood supporters and advocates. Suggested donation \$10 or more. To learn more about Sexy Tuesdays, visit our website, www.ppcw.org, or e-mail sexytuesdays@ppcw.org.

Saturday, April 15, 2006 **Tax Day! Charitable Checkoff**

Oregon Residents: Support Planned Parenthood when you prepare your taxes! Go to "Other Charity" and check off #13.



Announcing the annual Planned Parenthood Luncheon honoring the 33rd Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* with Eleanor Clift


Thursday, January 19, 2006

11:45 a.m.—1:15 p.m.

Hilton Portland

921 SW Sixth Avenue

Minimum suggested contribution \$75

 LEANOR CLIFT is a contributing editor for *Newsweek* where she reports on the White House, Congress, and the Washington power structure. She is also a political analyst for the Fox News Network.

Buy Tickets Now!

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 Kim Heavener
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For information or to make a reservation call 503-788-7277, e-mail development@ppcw.org, or buy tickets on our web site at www.ppcw.org.

Express Locations

Clackamas Express
 16068 SE 82nd Dr.
 Clackamas, OR 97015
 503-496-0811

Salmon Creek Express
 2105 NE 129th St.
 Suite 105
 Vancouver, WA 98686
 360-571-8481

Health Center Locations

Southeast Portland	Northeast Portland	Beaverton	Central Oregon	Gresham	Salem	Vancouver	Online Health Center
3231 SE 50th Ave. Portland, OR 97206 503-775-0861	3531 NE 15th Ave. Suite B Portland, OR 97212 503-288-8826	12220 SW First St. Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005 503-646-8222	2330 NE Division St. Suite 7 Bend, OR 97701 541-389-9973	501 NE Hood Ave. Suite 100 Gresham, OR 97030 503-666-6680	3825 Wolverine St. NE Salem, OR 97305 503-363-8732	5500 NE 109th Ct. Suite A Vancouver, WA 98662 360-694-1188	www.ppcw.org 503-788-7273 1-888-875-7820