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PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, July 12, 2007

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**PLANNED PARENTHOOD AFFILIATES TO CONSOLIDATE:
FORM PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NORTHEAST OHIO**
Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America to Speak

Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and daughter of late Texas Governor Ann Richards, will join Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio to announce the consolidation of five formerly-independent Planned Parenthood organizations: Planned Parenthoods of Greater Cleveland; Mahoning Valley; North Central Ohio; Stark County; and Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties.

The kickoff event will be held Thursday, July 12, at the Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio headquarters in Akron, 444 West Exchange Street, from 5:30-7:30 PM. Ms. Richards will also be the guest speaker on Friday, July 13 at 12 noon at the City Club of Cleveland’s Friday Forum and will hold a press conference with Tara Broderick, PPNEO’s Chief Executive Officer, prior to the forum, at 11 a.m. in the City Club Library.

Ms. Broderick said, “The new regional organization will be better positioned to meet regional health care needs. PPNEO is proud to be a leader in the non-profit sector by regionalizing operations while maintaining strong ties in our local communities.” According to Ms. Broderick, the benefits of the consolidation will include reducing duplication of efforts, increasing specialization, and strengthening core services in order to serve more people.

Local community leaders, foundations, volunteers, and employees agree that this is a positive step forward for the organization and for the northeast Ohio region. “This is a merger of opportunity,” said Reverend Sandra Selby, former Board President of Planned Parenthood of Summit, Portage and Medina Counties. “From the beginning of our conversation about consolidation, what has fueled our energies and focused our efforts is our common commitment to the mission of Planned Parenthood. We are excited to become part of something bigger and even better.”

The five organizations officially became PPNEO on July 1, 2007. PPNEO will initially operate seventeen health centers that provide vital health care services to over 57,000 women and men throughout twenty-one counties in northeast Ohio. An eighteenth health center site will open in September 2007 in the city of Lorain.

PPNEO will be governed by a 24-member Board of Directors selected from throughout the region. Barbara Singhaus, former Board President of Planned Parenthood of Stark County, will serve as PPNEO's first President. Ms. Singhaus will be joined by local members, including Becky Babcox, Sara Balzarini, C. William Keck, M.D., M.P.H., Adarsh E. Krishen, M.D., Joyce Ann Lee, R.N., Bhaskar Maranthe, Ph.D., Alita A. Rogers, and Reverend Sandra Shelby.

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Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider. PPNEO serves over 57,000 clients a year through a three-pronged approach of health care, education, and advocacy. PPNEO's services are provided on a sliding fee scale, based upon a client's ability to pay. Health care services provided include complete gynecological exams, birth control, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, first-trimester abortion, and screening and treatment of pre-malignant cervical conditions.