



# The Provider

FALL 2008

## Freedom of Choice

*Mary Lee Ehrenfelt  
PPSI Supporter*

This is a story about something that happened before there was anything called "reproductive choice." I was a very young student nurse attending a Catholic nursing school and working in a Catholic hospital. One day while I was working on the Surgery floor, a 15 year old girl was admit-

ted directly from the operating room in very serious condition. The story that unfolded changed me forever.

She was pregnant and terrified. She had told her mother, but they were both so frightened of the father they knew they could not tell him. So, out of fear and desperation, the mother tried to abort the pregnancy using a rat-tail comb. She perforated the uterus, which re-

sulted in the girl developing peritonitis, a life-threatening infection. Her uterus and ovaries were removed and the infection was scraped out of her abdominal cavity. She nearly died as a result and, of course, could never have children.

This had a huge impact on me. She was so close to my own age and this event was so drastic and so final for her that it literally marked me for

life. My first thought was "there has to be a better way than this!" As years went by and the reproductive choice issue became widely discussed, I became involved with the pro-choice movement due largely to that early memory which had never left me... ever. Of course, birth control is a more desirable option, but unfortunately

*see "Choice" on page 2*

## Make a Difference

*Laura Selken  
Board Development*

Change seems to be the buzzword these days, and I'll be experiencing a lot of it in the coming months. After living in southeast Iowa for nearly 20 years, my husband and I are moving to California. As I look back at the time I've spent here, one of the most rewarding experiences was my

time on the board at PPSI. I've met some great people, both board and staff members, and made some lasting friendships. I've also had some great experiences, including meeting Sarah Weddington, going to Des Moines to lobby our area representatives, and attending the Central Region PPFA Conference in Minneapolis. And I've

changed! I'm a better person having served on the board.

The entire staff of PPSI works hard every day to make a difference in people's lives. There are still far too many unplanned pregnancies in our communities, but PPSI can change that. There are still far too many young women and men who are misinformed about sex, birth control,

STDs, etc., but PPSI can change that. Far too many women are not getting annual reproductive health exams, maybe because they cannot afford it, or maybe because they are frustrated by the wait time for an appointment, but PPSI can change that.

As a board member, you, too, can make a

*see "Difference" on page 2*

## Message from the Education Director



*PPSI Education and Outreach Staff (left to right): Amanda Kaiser, Alejandra Rebolledo, Becky Godfrey, Maria Mellado, Tanya Moore*

Fiscal year 2008 was a great year for the Education Department at PPSI! With the help of the outreach staff, educational presentations increased from 175 in FY07 to 300 in FY08. 4744 individuals were reached in FY08, 2584 more than in FY07!

The department presented classes at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, Burlington Residential Facility, Lee County Juvenile Detention Center, Burlington High School, Winfield-Mt. Union Schools, Wapello Middle School, The Nests in Columbus Junction, Des Moines County, Wapello, and Mount Pleasant, and many other organizations and school districts.

Alejandra and I presented at the "Drawing From a Deeper Well" conference in July. This conference is held every two years for Planned Parenthood educators, clinic managers,

health workers, social workers, etc. We presented on "Working Effectively with Interpreters in Educational Settings." It was well attended and we received good reviews.

The department had two Halloween parties in October and a few other fundraisers for the education department. The Halloween party on the 17th was geared toward high school students and the party on the 25th was for adults. We wanted these to be fun and informative parties. There were costume contests, giveaways, scavenger hunts, and more.

October 15 is also National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). PPSI, along with the Henry/Louisa County HIV Awareness Network, will be honoring this day with free HIV testing on October 14th at our Mount Pleasant clinic during the day and in Columbus Junction in the late afternoon and evening.

We are here for you, so please call us if you have ideas for programs, need a speaker, or just have a question. The education department at PPSI would love to help. ■

*Tanya Moore  
Education Director*

## Choice

and for many different reasons, not always used.

The bottom line is this. No law now states that you MUST use birth control. No law states that you MUST have an abortion. The law now gives you freedom of choice. The Right to Life people would change this so that they would decide for you what your options would be - and that would be no options. If your 13 or 14 year old daughter or granddaughter were assaulted, raped, and became pregnant, would you want her to be forced to go through with the pregnancy? Now she has a choice. If the law is changed, she will have no choice. ■

## Did you know...

It's easy to volunteer! Volunteering opportunities range from routine office work to voter registration and lobbying to serving on our Board of Directors. Whatever time you have can be matched to a volunteer opportunity! Call 319.753.6209 x117 to learn more.

## Difference

difference. I made a change in my life by putting my passion into action. Make a change in your life - get active and support an organization that needs more than just your monetary donation. they need YOU - your time (I know it is precious, but we're not really talking about a lot of time!), your experiences, your input, and your passion. Change from being passive to active, and make a difference in your community! Become a board member! Call 319.753.6209 x107 to learn more. ■

## Keokuk Clinic's New Home



The Keokuk Clinic has moved to 1626 Morgan Street, in the office suite once occupied by Dr. Jabbari. Kim Riddle, Clinic Manager, says, "The new clinic is wonderful! There is more room, it is a more professional atmosphere, and it is easier to maintain client confidentiality here. Our staff and clients really appreciate the new location."

An open house was held at the new clinic in July. The Keokuk Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting and Christie Vilsack, Executive Director of the Iowa Initiative to Reduce Unintended Pregnancies, was the guest speaker. Thank you to the Keokuk community for attending the open house and for the fantastic support you give PPSI! ■

## New Employee




Kayla Taylor is a recent graduate of SCC's Medical Assistant program and is working in the Fort Madison and Keokuk clinics. She is also a newlywed; she married her husband Jamie in

July. Jamie and Kayla make their home in Hamilton, Illinois. During her free time, Kayla likes to spend time with her family and husband and hopes to have children in the next few years. She joined the PPSI team in August and is looking forward to a career here. Welcome, Kayla! ■

### Did you know...

The Burlington and Keokuk clinics are open two Saturdays a month.

## Gardasil at PPSI

 Planned Parenthood of Southeast **GARDASIL.** Iowa has offered Gardasil, the HPV vaccine that prevents cervical cancer, since April. HPV is the virus that is responsible for 70% of cervical cancer cases and 90% of genital warts. The vaccine is a series of three shots over a six month period and is recommended for all young women between the ages of 11 and 26.

By Iowa law, any insurance plan that covers vaccines must also cover Gardasil. Financial assistance is also available from Merck, the vaccine's manufacturer, and the Vaccines for Children Program.

Nationwide, over eight million young women have received the Gardasil vaccine. Over 240 young women have received Gardasil at PPSI. ■

### Did you know...

PPSI accepts all insurance plans, Medicare and Medicaid, Illinois Healthy Women, and Illinois Public Aid.

## Phantom Pet Wash



*Please don't wash my pet!*

There is still time to make your pet a "PPSI Choice Pet!" In place of the standard mid-year appeal, PPSI is giving donors the chance to NOT have us wash their pet, while still supporting the Planned Parenthood mission. And

if you don't have a pet, that's ok, too!

Visit our website at [www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi) to learn more about the Phantom Pet Wash, how to adopt a pet from the Des Moines County Humane Society, and to view the Choice Pet gallery. ■

### Did you know...

100% of your donations to PPSI stay in Southeast Iowa.

You can also donate online at [www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi). Just be sure to check the "local" box.

 **Planned Parenthood**<sup>®</sup>  
of Southeast Iowa  
620 North 8th Street  
Burlington, IA 52601

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1.800.230.PLAN  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsi)

## Message from the CEO

Did you know that Al Capone, the famous gangster, is responsible for the quotation “vote early and vote often”? Early absentee voting at satellite sites is new in Iowa this year and Iowa also allows voter registration at their polling places on Election Day. Voting is easier than ever these days, but we all need to make an effort to encourage others to vote.

Eighty-eight years ago, women won full voting rights and in 1971, Women’s Equality Day was established. Sex education, birth control, and abortion are issues that will impact the real equality of women in future generations. Both Presidential candidates are working hard to bring women and young voters to their party but the candi-

dates have very different views on these issues. It’s up to the voters to find out how these differences could impact their future!

The presidential candidates haven’t yet highlighted Roe v Wade in their campaigns. Poll after poll has shown the majority of Americans support the Supreme Court decision. Is it possible reproductive health issues are not on the front burner because most of America takes them for granted? The Supreme court legalized abortion in 1973 but in recent years has allowed many requirements and restrictions that make it almost unavailable in many states. NARAL Pro-Choice America says as many as 23 states would automatically criminalize abortion if Roe v Wade were overturned.

It’s hard to imagine that up until 1965 some states prohibited the use of contraceptives. The Supreme Court legalized the right to birth control with Griswold v Connecticut, often viewed as the first and most powerful legislation ever on reproductive freedom and privacy.

A recent LA Times article examined whether there is a real threat to Roe v Wade. Over the last eight years, reproductive rights advocates and legal scholars have warned of a time when the legal right to abortion on a federal level may disappear. Some say it is “crying wolf.” But, as the LA times reports, “this time they may be right.”

With only four of the nine Supreme Court justices supporting the Roe v

Wade decision, and at least one of those, Justice John Paul Stevens, likely nearing retirement (he is 88 years old), this presidential election may hold the fate of Roe v Wade in its hands. This month the US Supreme Court begins its term, with no abortion related cases on the docket. But Roe v Wade is a question that may be answered by the next President of the United States.

If you still need more information on Presidential candidates, I encourage you to visit [www.rockthevote.com/electioncenter](http://www.rockthevote.com/electioncenter). You can find the candidate’s views and voting records on a wide variety of issues, locate your local polling place, and even register to vote. ■

*Cherry Klein*  
CEO