



## IS THIS THE FINAL YEAR FOR TEEN THEATRE?

### YOU CAN HELP SAVE THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM

Last year at this time, Planned Parenthood’s Teen Theatre was gearing up for a gala performance, celebrating 20 years of innovative, educational theatre. This year, PPSO is facing the heartbreaking possibility of saying goodbye to this unique program – one that has touched thousands of lives and played a vital role in our community. What happened?

Due to changes in the Medicaid waiver program, PPSO is projecting a 20% loss in revenue for FY08. To address this significant budget shortfall, twelve positions have been cut, and one clinic closed. Unless new, dedicated revenue can be identified to sustain Teen Theatre, it too will be eliminated at end of 2008.

Teen Theatre offers unique and groundbreaking theatre. The company consists of teen actors, writers, and musicians who create and perform original scenes and songs that reflect healthy messages about sexuality. Teen Theatre provides sexuality education that is positive, heart-felt, and funny

– ways that resonate with youth and adults alike.

“It touches you. Sometimes it even makes you cry. Sometimes you cry while you laugh. I just loved it. Every time I see it I fall in love with it all over again. I want every teen in the world to see it,” says student Anika Rahlston.



One of the longest-running teen theatre programs in the U.S., PPSO’s Teen Theatre has reached tens of thousands of teen and adult audience members throughout Oregon. The youth perform at schools, professional conferences, and community events, and have won regional and national awards.

“Teen Theatre has a great influence on the actors,” says Cil Stengel, Director for 13 years. “Many times the actors’ views are changed, their outlook broadens, and they question the ideals that they’ve always accepted as normal. They gain confidence on stage and off. The actors naturally become educators, not only in their role as performers, but in their

*See Teen Theatre continued on page 6*

LETTER FROM THE CEO  
CYNTHIA PAPPAS  
2

FAILING GRADE FOR  
ABSTINENCE ED  
3

ONE MILLION STRONG  
CAMPAIGN  
3

1 IN 4-KNOW MORE  
4-5

GRANT WRITER HIRED  
5

INTERACTIVE MEDIA  
COORDINATOR HIRED  
6

PLANNED GIVING  
7

## LETTER FROM THE CEO...

# CYNTHIA PAPPAS

Dear Friends,



Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon is committed to providing accessible, affordable reproductive health care for women, men, teens, and families. We are constantly evaluating the best way to meet community needs and the most fiscally responsible way to move forward. We could not accomplish what we do without your support.

May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Adolescent Sexual Health month. We've called attention to the issue through an op-ed piece in the Eugene Register-Guard emphasizing the importance of comprehensive sex ed for our teens, by promoting the condom cover contest using art to promote the message of safer sex, and raising awareness in our clinics by highlighting the New 3Rs. Keeping our message in front of folks is crucial to the social change we seek.

In this newsletter, we celebrate Sloane Heermance, whose passion for healthy families led her to include Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon in her living trust. We also feature our Teen Theatre. They have been a critical part of our education program for 20 years. Due to budget cuts, we will be forced to close the program down unless we can raise \$100,000 to sustain Teen Theatre in 2009. A change in the state's reimbursement policy for some of our services has left us with a significant budget shortfall. It's a critical time to increase your giving to PPSO.

Finally, the presidential election is important, especially with the current state of affairs in this country and internationally. Read about the One Million Strong campaign to turn out one million pro-choice voters across the country. And, don't forget that local primary and general elections are just as important. Local elections affect PPSO education services and health centers more than most people realize. In our eight county region, having local support is something we cannot afford to lose. Make sure you vote!

*Sincerely,*

*Cynthia Pappas*

## 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

### PPSO WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Colin Benson is a Deputy District Attorney in Douglas County. He lives in Roseburg.
- Marissa Gaulton is a senior at Pleasant Hill High School. She has been active in advocacy efforts at the State and was a team leader for Lobby Day in 2007.
- Colin Stevens is a freshman at Oregon State University. He served on PPSO's Youth Action Council – REV – for three years while attending South Eugene High School.
- Sue Cutsogeorge is a Financial Analysis Manager at the City of Eugene. Sue chairs PPSO's Finance Committee.
- Molly Parish lives in Medford and is the General Manager of Twin Creeks Retirement Center in Central Point, an active retirement community.

## ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION GETS FAILING GRADE

Yet again, another piece of research underscores that the federal government's abstinence-only approach to sex education has failed miserably.

"The fact is, abstinence-only education doesn't work," Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America states, citing a recent study by the National Center for Health Statistics highlighting a rise in the teen birth rate, reversing a 15-year decline. Simply advising teens to abstain from sex until marriage is irresponsible public health policy.

### *Ignorance is Expensive*

Unintended teen pregnancy is a preventable public health problem, yet in the last decade more than \$1.5 billion has been wasted on dangerous abstinence-only programs that deny teens the information and skills they need to protect themselves against unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections. "It's time to put that money toward real solutions," states

Mary Gossart, PPSO Vice President of Education and Training.

### *What PPSO is Doing*

Planned Parenthood knows firsthand the power of education to help teens make responsible decisions about their health. Every year PPSO's professional community educators provide young people from elementary through high school levels with practical information on sexual growth and development, healthy relationships, delaying sex, birth control and sexual protection, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. Planned Parenthood is also represented on the statewide Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Sexual Health Partnership. The group, working under the auspices of the Governor's Office, has authored a Statewide Plan for Teen Sexual Health and is working to help communities implement a more effective, pragmatic, and sound public health approach to adolescent sexuality.

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES OF OREGON JOINS THE ONE MILLION STRONG CAMPAIGN

For years to come, 2008 will stand out as a watershed year for our country — a time of sweeping change, grassroots mobilization, and citizen empowerment. Planned Parenthood has an important role to play in it all and a tremendous amount at stake. The outcome of this year's elections will have a huge impact on our ability to promote commonsense prevention policies and keep serving the millions of women, men, and teens who rely on us for needed services and information.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon - our political arm - is part of a national Planned Parenthood campaign called One Million Strong. Our collective goal is to elect pro-choice candidates at

every level, including a pro-choice President; pass laws and policies that support women's health; defeat anti-choice ballot measures; and turn out one million pro-choice voters in November 2008!



Right here in Oregon, we are working to recruit more than 23,000 supporters to become members of the One Million Strong Campaign. This is an ambitious but achievable goal. For the next six months, our organizing and outreach will

be focused on this critical campaign to turn out pro-choice voters in this election. Our future depends on it. For more information, contact Rose Kelsch, Public Affairs Field Director, at 344-2632, ext. 31.

# 1 IN 4 KNOW MORE . . . TEENS N

Recent news that more than three million teenage girls have a sexually transmitted infection (STI) emphasizes the importance of comprehensive sex education and easily accessible and affordable reproductive health services for teens. The study, by CDC researcher, Dr. Sara Forhan, reported that 1 in 4 teen girls (26%) had an STI. While the government study was carried out in 2003/2004, Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC STD Prevention Unit, said the data likely reflects current prevalence rates.

This information underscores what Planned Parenthood has known for years – teenagers need to know how to protect themselves against sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. They need the right information to make responsible decisions should they choose to have sex. Parents have an essential role in sharing information, along with their personal values, to help young people make that decision.

One study, recently released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, shows that comprehensive sex education delays

the onset of first intercourse, reduces the number of partners for sexually active teens, and increases condom use. All of these outcomes improve young people's sexual health. (The full report, "Emerging Answers, 2007, Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases," by Doug Kirby, Ph.D. can be found at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).)

In addition to the importance of medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education, young people must have access to health services. Teens need to be screened for STIs as part of comprehensive



*Cecile Richards with volunteers at the Gala!*

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Cocktails for a Cause  
Paschal's Winery  
1121 Suncrest Drive  
Talent, OR

June 11, 2008 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join friends and hear an update on PPSO's work  
in Medford/Ashland

Tickets: \$15

Cocktails for a Cause  
The Bear Hotel  
201 Spaulding Ave.  
Grants Pass, OR

June 12, 2008 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join friends and hear an update on PPSO's work  
in Grants Pass

Tickets: \$15

# NEED STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT SEX

reproductive health services whether at a Planned Parenthood clinic or with their primary care provider.



A vaccine for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) released in late 2006 is a major breakthrough in preventing HPV infection and cervical cancer. The best way to protect young women is to make sure they get vaccinated for HPV before they are at risk of infection. In the past year, PPSO has provided nearly 1,500 HPV vaccinations in our clinics in an effort to reduce the incidence

of this infection as well as cervical cancer.

Finally, young people need supportive adults in their lives. For many it is a parent. In fact, research by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy indicates that 47 percent of teens say parents most influence their decisions about sex.

Parents sometimes find that starting a conversation about sex can be daunting. But it doesn't have to be. PPSO has supported parents with information and resources for many years. We provide workshops and materials on how parents can be "askable" – and how they can effectively share personal beliefs and values with their children, in conjunction with medically accurate information about sex. A free parent resource packet can be obtained by calling toll-free (866) KITS4US (548-7487).

As both healthcare provider and reproductive health educators in our communities, Planned Parenthood knows firsthand the power of education and access to screening that provides teens the opportunity to make positive decisions and protect their health.

## PPSO WELCOMES NEW GRANTWRITER

Robin Runyan is happy to join PPSO as the new Grant Writer. Robin grew up in northern Michigan and received her BA in English and her MFA in Playwriting from Western Michigan University. She taught both Composition and Playwriting at WMU. She also spent a year in Iowa as a proposal writer for Pearson Education.

"I want to write and use my talents in the best possible way," says Robin. "I like the research aspect of grant writing and the reward of getting funding for important programs. I came from a small town with very little sex ed and nowhere to go if you

needed help, and many girls in my high school had babies. Teens need reliable resources in order to make healthy decisions."



her dog Sofia in the office. Sofia's not very good at research or writing, but she's always happy to see the staff!

Before moving to Eugene, Robin had never been to the Pacific Northwest, so she and her partner Josh enjoy taking day trips around the region. Robin volunteers with the Lord Leebrick Theatre Company as a Gala Coordinator. She is an avid fan of LOST and Detroit Tigers baseball. Some days, you may find

*Teen Theatre continued from page 1*

personal social circles as well.”

“I’ve seen their show numerous times and I am just blown away every single time. It’s a message teens need to hear, and it’s delivered in a way teens can hear,” says Middle School Teacher Heather Ayers.

Actor Lucas Charlie states, “The information presented is critical for youth and the way it is given is very effective. The impact this troupe has had on me is phenomenal.”

Can we possibly let go of such an extraordinary, effective program? Well, not without a fight. Planned Parenthood is proud to announce the launch of the “Save the Teen Theatre Campaign,” a three-month intensive effort to raise operating costs for the program. We are looking for new collaborations, grants, private donations, and business underwriting to cover the cost of

sustaining the Teen Theatre program in 2009. The campaign kick-off is Saturday, May 31st at Teen Theatre’s annual community show. This year’s performance, “From the Heart”, begins at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Center in Ashland. General admission is \$5; \$3 for students. There will also be an opportunity to donate.

There are many ways you can help the campaign. We’ve set up a secure, convenient way to donate on-line at [www.ppsworegon.org](http://www.ppsworegon.org). Click on Education (on the top navigation bar) then select Teen Theatre. If you prefer, send a check made out to Planned Parenthood with ‘Teen Theatre’ in the memo line. Also consider volunteering to be a campaign committee member. Contact Maggie Sullivan at 541-770-3330 ext. 1015 or [maggie.sullivan@pphso.org](mailto:maggie.sullivan@pphso.org).

Teen Theatre needs you more than ever.

## E.C. BROWN FOUNDATION FUNDS INTERACTIVE FUTURE

With the expanding popularity and use of electronic communication, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon hired Stacy Habr Ochoa as the Interactive Media Coordinator (IMC). This innovative and forward thinking position is funded by a generous two-year grant from the E.C. Brown Foundation as part of PPSO’s New 3Rs: Rights, Respect, Responsibility initiative.

The IMC is responsible for utilizing online technologies to activate and engage our growing network of New 3Rs Advocates. This includes developing a virtual community for Advocates that allows them to learn from one another and share New 3R successes, challenges, activities, and materials. The IMC will also apply interac-

tive media tools to educate young people about sexual health issues as well as engage them as New 3Rs Advocates in their own right.

No longer are simple websites enough to inform and stimulate the public. Cutting edge communication changes with each generation. Between social networking services, blogs, forums, chats, text messaging, instant messaging, and YouTube, keeping up with the latest and greatest advances is challenging and a bit overwhelming.

We’re fortunate to have someone with Stacy’s expertise on board. Check out the New 3R’s social networking space she’s created – ADVOSpace at [www.new3rsadvospace.ning.com](http://www.new3rsadvospace.ning.com)!



*See Advospace continued on page 7*

# WHY IS THIS WOMAN SMILING?

Sloane Heermance made a decision to include Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon in her living trust because PPSO is doing work she believes in. Sloane first got connected with Planned Parenthood in the seventies and has been a supporter ever since.

Sloane recounts a seminal moment, when she was 16 and her father took her to Junior Village, an orphanage, in Washington, D.C. She recalls



an enormous building filled with children. Her most poignant memory was entering the nursery where there were 40 babies and only two caregivers. This was an early turning point in her

wanting to assure that ALL children are WANTED children. Sloane sees a concentric circle with wanted children in the center and healthy families surrounding those children.

Sloane is a retired educator. Because of PPSO's strong education focus, Sloane sees the agency as being able to solve problems – providing

information necessary for individuals to make informed decisions.

“Family planning provides babies with such a strong beginning,” asserts Sloane.

Want to smile too? Consider joining Sloane in helping PPSO continue to be a problem solver in our communities. To learn more about bequests, charitable remainder trusts and other powerful giving options, call Planned Parenthood at (541) 344-2632 ext. 12.

*Advospace continued from page 6*

The ADVospace networking site is a new place in the virtual world where New 3R Advocate members can blog, set up chat forums, and participate in virtual interest-specific groups with other Advocates. For example, if you are one of the many Our Whole Lives (OWL) educators in Oregon, go to ADVospace to chat with other OWL educators to exchange ideas about class lessons and group activities. For parents, join ADVospace to share tips on talking with your child about sexual health issues.

Whether you're a teacher, community leader, religious leader, or policy maker, the capacity of ADVospace to support you in integrating New 3Rs values into your life is limitless!

## HOW CAN I HELP?

**EACH OF US CAN HAVE A ROLE IN PROMOTING A SENSE OF OPTIMISM AND THE VISION OF A FUTURE WHERE AFFORDABLE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

- ✓ **WRITE A CHECK TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHWESTERN OREGON**
- ✓ **VOLUNTEER**
- ✓ **SUPPORT AND INSPIRE VOLUNTEERS**
- ✓ **TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT SEX EDUCATION**
- ✓ **STAY INFORMED**
- ✓ **ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM ON CRITICAL HEALTH CARE ISSUES**
- ✓ **INFLUENCE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL AGENDAS THROUGH COMMUNICATION WITH LEADERS**
- ✓ **SERVE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**
- ✓ **ADVOCATE**
- ✓ **ATTEND A SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT**
- ✓ **TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT GIVING**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, CALL RENEE DELAURENTIS AT (541) 344-2632 EXT. 16

# THE GREAT AIM<sup>o</sup> EDUCATION IS NOT KNOWLEDGE, BUT ACTION. HERBERT SPENCER

## TURN YOUR TAX REFUND INTO HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION!

Please consider donating your federal tax rebate to Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon. Your contribution stays in the community and provides needed health care and education to local women, men, and teens. You can either write a check to PPSO or go online at [www.pphsso.org](http://www.pphsso.org) and click Donate Now. Your gift will make a difference.

### CLINIC LOCATIONS

Eugene  
1670 High Street  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 344-9411

Eugene Express  
793 N. Danebo Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97402  
(541) 463-9731

Springfield  
225 Q Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541) 744-7121

Grants Pass  
160 NW Franklin Blvd.  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(541) 474-2784

Medford  
125 S. Central #201  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 773-8285

Ashland  
1532 Siskiyou Blvd.  
Ashland, OR 97520  
(541) 482-8700

Florence  
4969 Highway 101  
Florence, OR 97439  
(541) 902-7861

Cottage Grove  
1450 Birch  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
(541) 767-0566

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

360 East 10th Ave., #104  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 342-6042

