

Dialogue

Fall 2011

“Greetings”

AFTER A SIZZLING HOT SUMMER FILLED WITH BACKYARD barbecues, swim lessons, or a summer retreat to escape Nevada’s extreme heat, many of us will find ourselves back into our busy work schedules. But for many people, economic times are still difficult and the demand for affordable health care has never been greater.

Because of your support, Planned Parenthood is here for the many people struggling to access essential health care.

Your support directly impacts our ability to provide life-saving cancer screenings, birth control, STD testing and treatment, breast health care, Pap tests, sexual health information, annual well-women exams, abortion care, and more. One in five American women have turned to a Planned Parenthood at some time in their lives for professional, non-judgmental, and confidential care. These women rely on Planned Parenthood, and we are here for them. We’re also here for moms and dads who might be uncertain about – or just don’t know how – to talk to their teens about sex. We believe that as a community, we have the responsibility to educate our youth and help them have a good start for a healthy life.

At Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada, we take seriously our role as an organization that works everyday to keep Las Vegas healthy. This year alone, our *Promotores de Salud* program, which specifically engages and reaches out to Las Vegas’ Latino and Latina populations, conducted 114 platicas with 1,740 participants in attendance! Promotores de salud (health promoters) play a key role in advancing the wellbeing of their communities through health education.

This is just one of many examples of Planned Parenthood working to supply women and men with the most sophisticated instrument in medicine – **accurate information** – helping them make important decisions about their health. Thank you for standing with us so we can be here for others.



Vicki Cowart
PRESIDENT AND CEO

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CORKS & FORKS 2011 a success

The second annual PPSN Corks & Forks 'Paris Nights' was held on Friday, Sept. 23 at the Chateau Terrace in the Paris Las Vegas. The evening was a wonderful success! Guests enjoyed sumptuous food, wine and amazing views of the Las Vegas strip. Mistress of Ceremonies Kelly Clinton energized the crowd while providing important Planned Parenthood facts and Carol Leifer, Emmy award-winning writer, actress, and comedian, had the whole crowd laughing.

Thank you to all who attended and helped make the evening a success. Keep an eye out for details on next year's event. It promises to be even bigger and better!



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE BEKICH II

"Personhood" Returns to Nevada

Recently, two extremist groups filed far reaching anti-choice "personhood" ballot initiatives that seek to extend legal and constitutional rights to a woman's fertilized eggs.

These initiatives would outlaw abortion in all circumstances, ban certain forms of birth control and have grave consequences on other reproductive health decisions. PPSN and Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates (NAPPA) have come together to lead the opposition coalition which includes a wide-range of organizations that support women's health such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada, the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, ProgressNow Nevada, the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, and the Nevada Women's Lobby.

This coalition is currently evaluating a legal challenge to these deceptive ballot proposals.

"These initiatives are an attempt to prevent a woman from making her own personal, private decisions about her health with her family and doctor. They would bring government, lawyers, and the courts into our personal lives and would affect literally thousands of laws, costing our state a fortune to litigate," said Elisa Cafferata, president and CEO of Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates.

A similar petition was filed in Nevada in 2009. Carson City District Judge James Russell ruled on Jan. 8, 2010 that the 2009 petition could not be circulated because its language was so vague that voters would not understand its intention. The Nevada Supreme Court on Dec. 30, 2010 dismissed the case without vacating the District Court decision.

If you would like more information about our public affairs activities, the "personhood" initiatives, or to get involved with PPSN, please contact

Annette Magnus at
Annette.magnus@pprm.org
or at 702.878.3622 ext. 203.

Planned Parenthood **Standing Strong for Reproductive Health**

In April, PPSN attended the Planned Parenthood Federation of America National Conference in Washington D.C. We could not have picked a more opportune time to be in our nation's capital! As we made the trip, tense budget negotiations were taking place among Congressional leaders and the President. Anti-choice members in the House threatened to shut down the federal government over funding for preventive health care services at Planned Parenthood. At the eleventh hour, PPSN representatives including President and CEO Vicki Cowart and our amazing young volunteer of the year Cecilia Garcia spoke with Sen. Reid. The Senator assured us that he would

stand with Planned Parenthood. With the government shutdown looming, Reid and other members of Congress stood firm in their support of Planned Parenthood—a victory for women across the nation.

In July, we returned to D.C. but this time with a group of five young leaders for the National Youth Conference. During this time, we awarded Reid with the PPA Leadership Award for his commitment to women's health. We thank Reid for standing with Planned Parenthood. We also thank you, our amazing supporters, for signing petitions, making phone calls and for supporting Planned Parenthood!



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PPSN LOBBIES FOR STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED BILL

April was a busy month for PPSN at the state level too. The Nevada Legislature was in full swing and our comprehensive sex education bill was being heard by the Assembly Education Committee. Currently in Nevada, individual school districts can determine what type of curriculum to offer, which for the vast majority of schools is abstinence-based or nothing at all. The bill PPSN spearheaded sought to modify the status-quo to ensure comprehensive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate information is taught statewide. In other words, youth would have access to information that includes refusal skills, abstinence and delaying sex as well information about pregnancy and STD prevention. Additionally, our bill also proposed that youth-serving professionals who teach sexual health, meet specific competency requirements.

On April 8, in Carson City and Las Vegas, supporters of the bill packed legislative hearing rooms to let policymakers know that sex education that includes information about abstinence in addition to information about birth control and STD prevention is needed in Nevada's schools. PPSN's Education Manager Laura Deitsch, along with local students and our coalition partners, testified on behalf of the bill. They explained that abstinence-based sex education does not work, and that our youth need complete, medically accurate information to make safe, healthy, and responsible decisions. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass out of the committee. However, we plan to bring the bill back next legislative session. Thank you to all of our supporters for contacting your legislators about this important issue.

Promotores Celebrates Two Years of Success

Promotores de Salud is a unique PPSN program that began in 2009. Since 2009, PPSN's volunteer health educators or promotores, have met with thousands of community members to help spread the word about maintaining good health and the services available at PPSN health centers.

Rosita Castillo, promotores program manager at PPSN, explained that the program owes its success to the hundreds of volunteers and partnerships with key community organizations.

"Our team of volunteer promotores has generously given 773 hours of time already this year," she said. "In our fiscal year 2011, we have conducted 114 platicas [informal meetings] with 1,740 participants!"

Rosita and our promotores attend many community health fairs and outreach events held by coalition partners at local churches, schools, and LGBT organizations.

One of the key partnerships that Rosita and her team established is with the Mexican Consulate. The Mexican Consulate recently invited Rosita and her team of promotores to a meeting at the ARIA in Las Vegas with Felipe Calderon, the Mexican President. The Consulate chose a small group of community leaders to discuss the work they are doing to support Mexicans in the United States. The Consulate also hosts platicas every Friday and has asked Rosita and her team to help organize a bi-national health fair that is coming up in October.

"We're trying to reach as many people as we can!" said Rosita.



www.pprm.org
1.800.230.PLAN

The mission of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and Southern Nevada is to empower individuals and families in the communities we serve to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health by providing high quality health services, comprehensive sex education, and strategic advocacy.

Editors

Monica McCafferty
David Proper

PPSN Administrative Staff

Renee McConey
Regional Services Director

Rosita Castillo
Program Manager

Laura Deitsch
Education Program Manager

Judith Hantin
Development Manager

Annette Magnus-Marquart
Public Affairs Manager

Health Center Managers:

Maribel Puga
Kristina Trejo
Stephanie Roberts

PPRM Board of Trustees based in Las Vegas:

Brian Menzel
Robert Tyre
Caryn Tyre

Health Center Locations:

3220 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas 702.878.7776

3300 E. Flamingo Rd.
Unit 25
Las Vegas 702.547.9888

3490 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Unit 105
North Las Vegas 702.642.3313

Call **1.800.230.PLAN** or visit **www.pprm.org**
to make an appointment.