

Dialogue

Spring 2011

LOOKING BACK ON THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WE know it's our supporters like you who have played a crucial role in helping us achieve great accomplishments and defend our mission locally and nationally.

With the new conservative leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, we have witnessed numerous attempts to undermine Planned Parenthood through proposed legislation that would deny our organization of all federal funding for the essential health care we provide. Together, we are working hard to ensure that our elected officials will understand how misguided it is to even consider barring Planned Parenthood from federal funding for family planning and preventive health services such as annual exams, cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and STD testing and treatment. Cutting funds to Planned Parenthood really means eliminating health care for the women who count on us.

In Nevada, we have been busy lobbying for legislation that supports our state's youth and teens. If passed, this bill will require Nevada schools to teach and support medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education that includes information about pregnancy and disease prevention as well as delaying sexual activity.

Additionally, you will notice that this issue of *Dialogue* has a new look, which reflects and is part of our rebranding campaign. The cornerstone of this campaign is an updated logo that contains the phrase "We're Here." "We're Here" is our promise to the communities we serve and to the women, men, and young adults who turn to us each and every day.

Along with these activities, we continue to serve many people in our communities. During these challenging times, we see more people each day who need affordable health care. People are coming to our health centers because they have lost their job or insurance, and PPSN is here for them. With your stalwart support, we will continue to be powerful and effective in ensuring access to essential health care services and standing up for policies and programs that benefit women, men, and young adults. Thank you for standing with us.



Vicki Cowart

Catching Up with PPSN Public Affairs

Since our last Dialogue issue, our Public Affairs department has been hard at work. Here are a few highlights of their efforts:

- During the 2010 election, PPSN worked diligently to mobilize our support by hosting phone banks and canvassing boot camps. Additionally, we co-hosted a Voting 101 community education event with coalition partners and held "Get Out The Vote" activities at UNLV.
- Last summer, PPSN's Public Affairs Manager Annette Magnus-Marquart and two of our outstanding youth advocates, Jaclyn Gross and Cecilia Garcia, traveled to Planned Parenthood's National Organizing and Youth Summit in Washington D.C. They met with Nevada's U.S. Representatives and educated policymakers about the importance of Planned Parenthood in Southern Nevada. Additionally,

- Cecilia was accepted onto PPFA's National Youth Advisory Council as a representative of PPRM/PPSN. This Council gives her a platform to be vocal on issues that affect our community's youth.
- PPSN has organized a new group called Youth for Truth. This group includes high school and middle school teens who advocate for comprehensive sex education and who work to find the best ways to educate their friends and fellow students.
- In recognition of *Roe v. Wade*, PPSN hosted its 3rd annual Rock for Roe celebration. *Jackson's Bar & Grill* was once again the venue of choice, drawing an enthusiastic crowd. Attendees enjoyed great food, good drinks, wonderful entertainment, and a drawing for prizes. Nearly \$1,000 dollars was raised! Donations supported volunteers



and activists visiting Carson City to participate in Grassroots Lobby Days.

To get involved or for more information regarding any of these activities, please call Annette Magnus-Marquart at 702.878.3622 ext. 203.

Grassroots Lobby Days

From March 12 - 15, PPSN supporters attended Nevada Women's Lobby (NWL) grassroots lobby days in Carson City. We participated in lobby training and attended keynote speeches including one from nationally known feminist Shelby Knox. The PPSN group met and lobbied over 17 legislators about AB 314, our comprehensive sex education bill. Additionally, Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates (NAPPA) organized a special presentation on teen pregnancy and the importance of comprehensive sex

education. This presentation took place in front of the Assembly Education Committee. PPSN intern Yoanna Sotelo and PPSN Education Program Manager Laura Deitsch joined Shelby Knox in providing testimony. NWL was excited to have PPSN at this year's grassroots lobby day and was honored to have Shelby Knox speak. Lobby day participants agreed that this trip was an amazing experience and great success.



A Shining Night 'Under the Stars at Moon' Event

Our annual Corks & Forks event, themed 'Under the Stars at Moon,' proved to be another successful event, filled with enthusiastic PPSN supporters. Guests at the event heard from event sponsor and host, Jenna Morton, PPRM President and CEO, Vicki Cowart, and Planned Parenthood National Youth Advisory Board member, Cecilia Garcia. This year's event far exceeds the goals and expectations that had been set by a very hard working and dedicated committee: Leigh Aurbach, Lori Blumenthal, Anne Menzel, Jenna Morton, Gerd Peters, Lacy Schorr, Caryn Tyre, and Diane Mason Wendel. Thank you all for your magnificent work.

Meet Lacy Schorr

Recently, we had the opportunity to sit with Lacy Schorr one of our dedicated supporters. PPSN is very fortunate to work with Lacy, who is a member of several committees including our annual event committee, and the Building the Future Campaign Committee.

Dialogue: Tell us about your family

Lacy: I am a wife and mother who has lived in Las Vegas for almost 16 years. I went to Silverado High School and went on to graduate from the University of California, San Diego, where I spent 4 years studying to be a political journalist. Instead, I became an account executive for a major advertising firm in Las Vegas before deciding to focus on my current roles. My husband, Seth Schorr, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and cut his teeth in the gaming industry at properties in Las Vegas and Macau, China. He now is the managing partner of a business that owns and oversees several properties in the Vegas valley. Together, Seth and I are the proud parents of a beautiful little toddler and will soon welcome our second child.

Dialogue: Why do you think it's important to support Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada?

Lacy: I first became aware of the growing need for Planned Parenthood's services while I was a college student. At the time, it seemed daunting for young women (including myself) to obtain birth control when we were so far from our general practitioners. Many women had never even been to see a gynecologist by their freshman year. Then it became clearer to me with time that limited access to reproductive health care is a problem that exists everywhere and affects everyone, especially in Southern Nevada where the unintended pregnancy rate is so high and where unemployment continues to run rampant amongst people who once relied heavily on their benefits for basic needs.

My other reason for supporting PPSN is so that, eventually, we can educate a generation of young people by doing more than just preaching abstinence. My hope is that high school students learn how to make wise and independent reproductive health choices that will benefit not only their lives but also our community.

Dialogue: Who did you look up to as a child? Why?

Lacy: My mother and grandparents. My mom, Linda, worked extremely hard as a single parent, and imparted many important values to me, such as how to be responsible and how to gain the trust and respect of other people through doing the right thing. My grandparents were always there for sleepovers, rides home from school, and bike lessons. They also schooled me on how to make a good martini and how to pick racehorses! But most importantly, they allowed me to experience growing up in a close family unit, even without a very present father.

Dialogue: Who do you admire now? Why?

Lacy: I admire my husband for his inner strength and inner peace. I appreciate the fact that he supports me as a woman and as a mother. He teaches me new things about myself all the time. I think he will inspire our son to be a great man.



Dialogue: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Lacy: In my limited spare time, I try to catch the latest movies with my husband, and we are very fond of foot massages at our favorite little place in Chinatown. I also can be seen quite frequently at the park with my son wheeling him around on his trike. Whenever we can get away for an extended period of time, we pack up the baby and our dog and head to Sun Valley, Idaho with Seth's parents, who encourage us to enjoy lots of family time.

Dialogue: What role do you think Planned Parenthood plays in the lives of young women and men?

Lacy: Planned Parenthood gives men and women who might not otherwise have access to reproductive health care a chance to receive affordable necessities like contraceptives, STD testing and even annual pap screenings. But, even more importantly, Planned Parenthood encourages young people to make appropriate and responsible decisions about their own bodies. There is no other agency like Planned Parenthood in the United States that both educates young adults to make the right choices, but then proceeds to extend a helping hand when they don't.

Dialogue: Where would you like to see Planned Parenthood grow in the future?

Lacy: Well, of course I'd like to see a 4th health center built in Las Vegas. The need is so great. That is why I've joined the fundraising team behind the "Building the Future" campaign.

Dialogue: If you could have one wish, what would it be?

Lacy: Eternal peace and happiness for everyone I know and love, starting . . . now!

Dialogue: What would you do to get young men and women involved in philanthropy?

Lacy: That's a tough one. You really can't force people into it. They have to see a need in the world around them that means something to them personally, and then want to get involved. I think that either comes from being brought up in a philanthropic household, or from simply growing as a person. The best I can do is lead by example: I can show other people how I choose to get involved, and then raise my own children in an environment where helping others is simply a part of life.

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Congratulations Cecilia García

Young Volunteer of the Year

Cecilia García, PPSN volunteer, has been selected to receive the 2011 Award for **Young Volunteer of the Year** from Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Cecilia, a student at UNLV, has been volunteering with PPSN for over a year and has been an amazing asset to the staff and the organization. Since her time with us, we have seen her mature into a passionate advocate and activist who is not afraid to stand up and make her voice heard. Cecilia is always willing to lend a helping hand and is one of our most reliable volunteers. From her work on the UNLV campus to her work in the office on events and special projects, Cecilia is a tremendous ambassador for PPSN and the issues impacting our clients.



Guardians of Choice: Leaving a Legacy

Guardians of Choice was established to honor individuals who support our work through a gift in their estate plan. Gifts left by *Guardians of Choice* become part of the endowment, a fund generating interest income for the advancement of Planned Parenthood's mission. This endowment is created through legacy gifts ranging in size from the smallest estate to million dollar bequests, with every gift making a permanent and positive impact.

You can join the *Guardians of Choice* in creating a deep financial well for Planned Parenthood that never runs dry regardless of what the political future may hold, and preserves reproductive freedom, education, and choice for future generations. Call Judith Hantin at 702.878.3622 ext. 204 or e-mail to Judith.Hantin@pprm.org for more information on how you can join *Guardians of Choice*.

www.pprmm.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.

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to make an appointment.