

friends *by* choice

Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region - November 2009 - Volume 1
Advancing Planned Parenthood's mission and services throughout our community



Choice is a fundamental issue in our democracy. Our freedom to plan our families and to make deliberate choices about when and if to have children sets us apart from much of the world. More than 3 million people nationwide come to Planned Parenthood for these services each year, many of whom lack health insurance. Still, the misinformation about Planned Parenthood and the right to legal and safe reproductive choice continues. Friends*by*choice aims to educate St. Louisans about the services Planned Parenthood provides, to be the counter voice to those who abuse the facts about reproductive health, and to facilitate civic engagement for our members. If you believe that knowledge is power, join friends*by*choice and help us empower the St. Louis community.

-Andrea Mackris, Chair, friends*by*choice



Kakao Chocolates Fundraiser

November has just arrived, but already our minds are turning to the fast approaching holiday season. This year, Planned Parenthood is teaming up with South City chocolatier Brian Pelletier of Kakao Chocolates to help you get through the season just a little easier.

Make a donation to Planned Parenthood this fall in honor of a loved one (or yourself!), and we will send them a box of Kakao truffles just in time for the holidays. Boxes are available in three sizes, and contain an assortment of truffles in flavors like Bourbon, Chili-vanilla, Turkish coffee with Cardamom, Chai, dark chocolate and salted caramel.

Order forms are available from friends*by*choice leadership or Planned Parenthood staff. For more information contact Development at 314.531.8616.

Truffle boxes available in three sizes!

\$20 donation – 6 pieces

\$50 donation – 16 pieces

\$75 donation – 26 pieces

All boxes will include a card customized with your message, and will be shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Gift boxes ordered before December 7th will ship on December 7th, and those ordered between December 8th and 18th will ship on the 18th.

Phone bank for health care reform!

We are calling Planned Parenthood supporters across the country to make sure that reproductive health care isn't left out of health care reform. St. Louis volunteers are making a national impact!

Three shifts are available:

November 10th from 12 noon until 3pm, or 5:30pm until 8pm

November 12th from 12 noon until 3pm

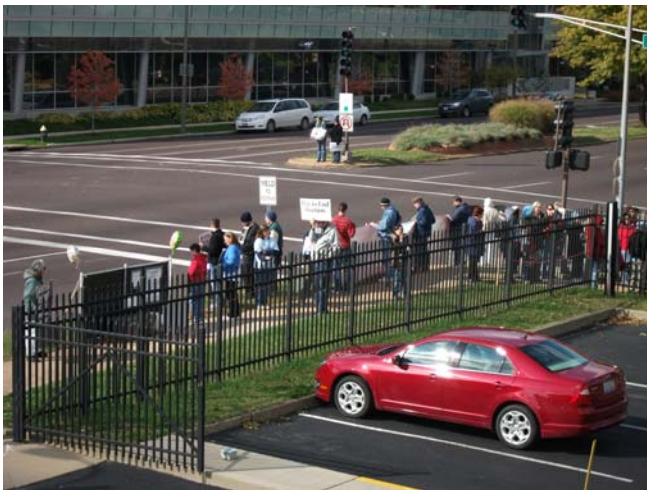
To sign up, contact Angie Postal at angie.postal@pplsr.org (314) 531-7526 ext. 334

They're Back...

Anti-choice groups have begun another intensive, prolonged protest at our family planning, surgical and administration center in the Central West End. This is a follow up campaign to the one they staged this past spring. The harassment began at 7 a.m. on September 23rd, and will continue 12 hour a day, 7 days a week.



Protestors outside our Central West End clinic, October 2009



Did you know?

- ❖ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, St. Louis leads the nation in gonorrhea and chlamydia infection rates, and ranks fifth in HIV and syphilis
- ❖ Young people aged 12-24 account for nearly two-thirds of sexually transmitted disease infections in St. Louis.
- ❖ After a Normandy High School teen tested positive for HIV last fall, Planned Parenthood provided more than \$50,000 worth of free HIV tests to area high school students.



Connect with us online

www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis

Thanksgiving Pub Crawl

Join friends *bychoice* for a unique pub crawl Wednesday, Nov 25th. On the busiest bar night of the year, we will be traveling to local neighborhoods, passing out safe sex kits as we go.

Contact Shana at shana.albright@ppslr.org to sign up or for more information.