



# FOCUS

## ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Spring 2009

### Free Breast Exams in Idaho

**Planned Parenthood is teaming up** with the Boise Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure to offer free breast cancer screenings this year in three Idaho communities. Funds are also being made available to assist women needing additional screenings beyond their initial exam.

Planned Parenthood's "One Stop" traveling licensed medical team has been in Boise, and will be in Twin Falls and Ketchum on certain dates through mid-September. It's the second year for the "One Stop" program and the sixth year Planned Parenthood has offered free breast exams with the help of the Komen Foundation.

"We're proud to be working again with Susan G. Komen for the Cure," said Rebecca Poedy, Vice President of Idaho Operations for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, "both agencies work hard every day to make health care more accessible to women."

*continued on page 7*

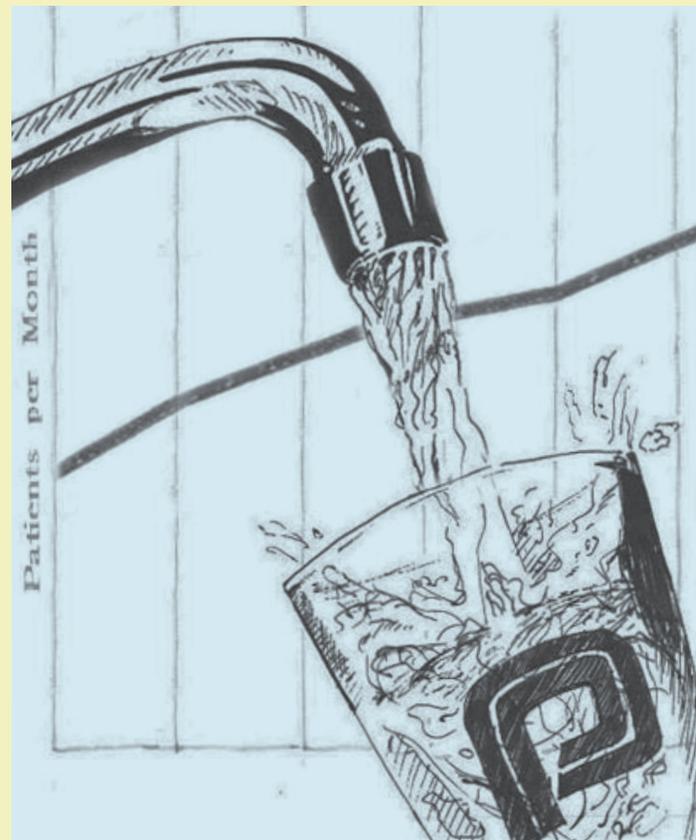
### Economic pressures push more patients to rely on Planned Parenthood

**Is a surge of new patients an economic sign of the times?**

"We are seeing so many walk-ins, people trying to understand if they can get services or afford care," says Jodi Guenther, Health Center Manager in Olympia, Washington. And her experience is not unique; a spike in the number of patients — many newly unemployed, uninsured and needing basic healthcare — is being felt throughout the three-state region of Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW).

Other PPGNW Health centers, like the Roosevelt branch that serves mostly University of Washington students, are also seeing the effects. Roosevelt Manager, Keri Hanson says many students are forced to choose between paying for increases in the cost of tuition and books or birth control.

The economic impact has not only meant an increase in people needing help, but because of continuing public funding cuts, there has been decreases in places patients can go. On April 1, Planned Parenthood closed its Monroe, Washington health center which provided healthcare for a largely underserved, rural population. And as of July 2009, The Department of Health is closing their family planning clinic in Olympia — Guenther says she is already seeing patients that have been referred to Planned Parenthood.



### In this Issue

State Budget Cuts	
Family Planning	3
The Future of Health	5
PPGNW Wins Affiliate Excellence Award	6

*continued on page 4*



# Funding Cuts Hit Home

## Let me describe to you the most difficult day

I've ever had as President and CEO of this organization.

The date was March 11<sup>th</sup> and the occasion was the monthly All Administration meeting. Employees from Alaska and Idaho were on a speaker phone. The western Washington staff was in the Fisher Board Room with me. And I was the bearer of bad news.

I'm sure it's no surprise to you that Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW) is facing some unprecedented challenges. Our operating revenue has plunged, even though our patient numbers have increased in the last four months.

On page one of FOCUS is an article that explains this paradox. My job at the All Administration meeting was to announce the difficult steps necessary in dealing with the situation.

Part of controlling costs means ending programs for which we can no longer find funding. PPGNW survives on a mixed diet of donations from supporters, payment from patients for their medical services, and (in Alaska and Washington) reimbursements from state and federal governments for low income patients. The economic crisis facing our nation and region means all three of the above revenue sources have been seriously compromised.

We have begun the process of re-evaluating programs we have operated, for years, at a loss. Under normal conditions, we carry that loss with the understanding that it's part of our mission imperative. In today's environment, it would be irresponsible to let certain programs add to the budget deficit that threatens our financial solvency.

To that end we have decided to close our health center in Monroe, Washington. Research revealed that many of our patients that used the health center are willing to drive to Everett, Marysville, or Kenmore. Also, SeaMar Community Health Center opened a branch in Monroe last year, and many of the services we provided may be covered by them.

Beyond closing Monroe is the wrenching decision to reduce full time staff through a hiring freeze on certain administrative

positions and layoffs. Although these numbers are few, the effect is painful. We have avoided this strategy for a long time and feel deeply for the friends and

colleagues to whom we have said goodbye. Aside from being wonderful co-workers, they have either directly or indirectly served this community and their loss will be felt on several levels.

Standing before the people with whom I've had the pleasure to serve with for years, I could see the concern on their faces, and I'm sure they could see the same on mine.

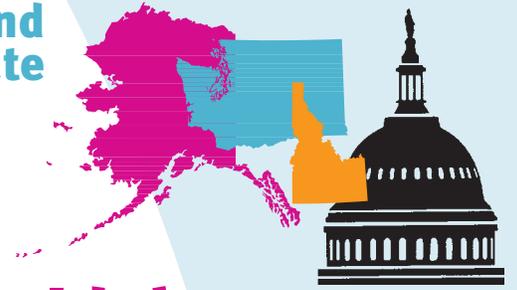
But while the future is uncertain, we now have a plan in place that will weather this economic storm in the short run, and sustain our mission in the long run. Providing vital reproductive health care to the thousands of people in our area who need it has never been an easy proposition, and this is yet another reminder of that.

I remain personally grateful for the job I have with this wonderful organization, for the people I work with every day to bring our medical, educational, and advocacy services to the community we call home, and to you for your consistent support for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest.



*Christine R. Charbonneau*

Christine R. Charbonneau,  
President/CEO



### Washington

**It was a long and grueling** legislative session in Olympia. Lawmakers, faced with a \$9 billion deficit, were forced to make deep cuts in health care, human services, and education. Planned Parenthood fought vigorously to preserve funding for family planning, as field organizers and volunteers generated over 25,000 calls to legislators across the state.

The family planning proviso funding was ultimately included at \$6 million, a level between the Senate and Governor's original proposed 10% cut and the House's proposed cut of 55%. Additionally the budget bill still includes language promising to bring the funding up to 90% in the supplemental budget if federal funding through the *Take Charge* Medicaid family planning program has not expanded by next year.

The funding is allocated at \$4.5 million in the first year of the budget, a 10% cut, and \$1.5 million for the second year, a 70% cut. The DSHS Community Service Office family planning program and supplies were also maintained.

Another major accomplishment for Planned Parenthood was passing Senate Bill 5629 which strengthens comprehensive sex education programs in Washington State. The bill removes a requirement that the WA State Department of Health apply for funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs which have been proven ineffective for teens.

### Alaska

#### Opposing House Bill 35

"Parental Consent and Notification for Abortion" consumed the energy of the Alaska Public Affairs team. It was heard in three House committees, passed by the full House, and held in the Senate Health and Social Services Committee. The new version is notification only, but still contains a 48 hour wait period for teens and an unconstitutional judicial bypass.

The four other abortion related bills did not move during this session. We actively lobbied against the anti-choice Attorney General appointment, Wayne Anthony Ross, who was not confirmed.

Opposing parental consent gave staff a great opportunity to educate legislators on the benefits of sex education and access to family planning, which is a perfect set up for our state-wide efforts to enact sex education guidelines and increase family planning access.

Over the summer several work sessions are planned with committee members to discuss teen pregnancy prevention and family planning waivers.

### Idaho

#### With two anti-choice bills

on the table this session we had to ask: would the Gem State continue drilling the "Swiss cheese" remnants of Idaho women's health care? First there was HB214--a bill to provide a "Certificate of Early Fetal Death" for miscarriages prior to 20 weeks gestation. Its proponents touted it as a step toward defining life at conception. The behind-the-scenes work of the Idaho Public Affairs team aided its unexpected demise by ONE vote on the House floor, a victory virtually unheard of in this state.

Next, HB216 would permit a pharmacist to refuse to fill any prescription based on their moral or ethical beliefs. We fought the battle on all fronts and as of today have successfully held it in Senate committee. As May flowers bloom, we await the end of session while Governor Otter and the supermajority fight over transportation issues. We hope the Pharmacist Refusal Bill remains a low priority for the rest of the spring.

### Get Involved!

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest is organizing a team for the "Health Care for All in 2009" March on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, Washington. The march will start at Pratt Park in the Central District at 12:30 and end at Westlake Park. Let's show the public demand for change. **"Health Care Reform cannot wait it must not wait & it will not wait another year"** – President Barak Obama.

If you would like to march with the PPGNW team, please contact Stacy DeLong at 206. 861.7531 or at [stacy.delong@ppgnw.org](mailto:stacy.delong@ppgnw.org).

## Economic pressures mean more must rely on PP from page 1

With a 35% jump in patient demand from 2008, PPGNW health centers in the state of Washington are seeing more than 9,400 patients a month so far this year. “I think people are coming through our doors because we are trusted and known to provide maximum care for the lowest cost possible,” Michael Romo, COO for PPGNW says. “We really make every effort to subsidize their care. Patient services are our number one priority through this economy and we are reacting with our continued emphasis on meeting their need no matter what.”

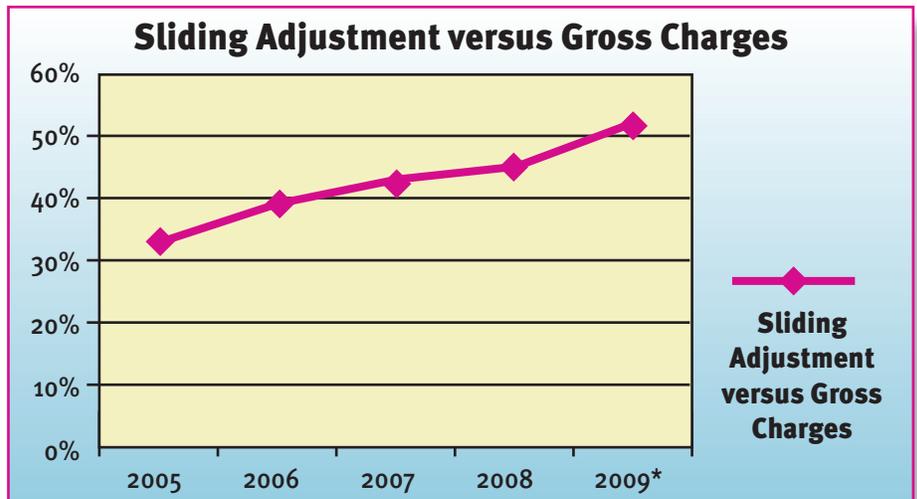
Being able to subsidize their care is what Planned Parenthood supporters across the region make possible. Last year, the generosity of individual giving paid for care that was not covered by public funding reimbursements, adding up to more than \$2,480,000. It’s obvious from the conversations staff are having with donors that there is an awareness of the increased patient need brought about from the economy, and everyone is doing what they can to protect services.

A strong commitment to protecting healthcare has meant creative thinking for PPGNW through the economic downturn. For Romo, that commitment is evident, as he and the Clinical Services staff are finding ways to be more effective in serving patients. Last year, he instituted affiliate-wide electronic medical records and a centralized contact center for all appointments and follow-ups. “We will continue to maximize access in our health centers by carefully balancing resources with patient needs. If we need to extend our hours or add staff we will find a way – we are resilient,” added Romo.

Shared compassion from donors, volunteers, and staff will ensure Planned Parenthood continues to be the trusted care provider through these difficult times for the underserved.

PPGNW is fortunate to have an endowment set up for its long-term survival. But the performance of investments by that endowment, like other investments, has lost significant worth in the last six months. In addition, news that the Washington state legislature has slashed aid to family planning by ten percent this year and 70% next year could mean more hard choices will have to be made (see *Legislative Update* on page 3).

Times are certainly challenging for so many, and together with the continued commitment from valued supporters, staff and volunteers, Planned Parenthood will be there to help them.



*This chart shows the percentage increase of patients for whom we must apply a sliding scale fee for care. (Sliding Adjustment versus Gross Charges describes those patients receiving services on a sliding scale vs. those patients for whom care is paid in full, by themselves or their insurance.) Increase is from 33% of patients on a sliding fee for services (due to no insurance and inability to enroll in Take Charge) in 2005 to 45% in 2008 and a projected 51% in 2009 based on January and February figures for 2009.*

# Town Hall Topic: The Future of Health

The role of family planning in today's economy will be the subject of a Town Hall meeting, Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in Seattle.

"Future of Health: Fulfilling the Family Planning Promise" will feature an engaging discussion with speakers Jennifer Frost, Senior Research Associate with the Guttmacher Institute, and Chris Charbonneau, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest.

You'll hear an insightful new report on the necessity of providing publicly funded family planning services to increase access to women's healthcare. Family planning clinics are the backbone for basic healthcare for many women, men and teens and promote good overall health by serving as a gateway to the health care system. Reproductive healthcare faces a detrimental lack of understanding for the preventative and cost-saving benefits of family planning programs.

The forum will take place Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm (doors open at 6:30) at Town Hall 1119 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle 98101. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for students at the door with a student ID). Register online at [www.ppgnw.org](http://www.ppgnw.org) or call (206) 328-7529.

## Write in Me

*We have placed "Write in Me" journals in the waiting rooms of our health centers hoping our patients would tell us their thoughts about Planned Parenthood and why they're here. Their anonymous words show a wide range of emotion and remind us again how necessary our services are to the community.*

**"Wow, there's a lot of interesting stories in here.** People come to Planned Parenthood from all walks of life, seeking help. I got laid off and lost my health insurance. Although I've got a new job, my insurance doesn't kick in until next month and I'm out of pills – I certainly hope they can help me."

**"I am scared. Pregnancy would be so terrible.** I've got a year of college left and then graduate school – that's when I can afford to raise a child and give them access to things I never had. I hate being so unsure of life – how to do things. I am 21 years old, soon to be a college graduate, financially self-supporting, and terrified of what may come next. I am so glad that Planned Parenthood is here for me. They're amazing. Why is life so hard?"

**"Planned Parenthood – what a long and bittersweet history we've had..."** I'm now nearly 31, and have utilized your services since the ripe age of 18 when I learned of a very unwanted and unplanned pregnancy. I opted for an abortion, the right choice for me at the time.

Since then, you've provided me with birth control, annual exams and ongoing education. I am now here for my first STD check. I had received a call from an ex, saying that he has tested positive and that I might check to see that I'm okay. Keep your fingers crossed for me. And thank you, Planned Parenthood, for all that you do for women."

**"I can't think of a single friend of mine who hasn't had to come to a Planned Parenthood at least once.** Many of us come because it's extremely easy to get to and it's private. Not to mention the options for low-budget people. Most of us wouldn't have anywhere else to go. I've been coming here since high school, so have many of my friends.

I've noticed that many of the clinics have had to cut down on their hours and some of the other benefits to all of us who come here for our birth control needs. I would hate to see that they have to close down due to lack of funding. Those of us who have jobs and can give back need to be doing our part to help with donations."

## New Medical Directors for Alaska, Idaho

**We welcome two new key positions** to Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest. With the merger of our three regions, it becomes ever more important to create and maintain a comprehensive oversight of our medical services. It is also vital to have local leadership in all three states in order to enact this oversight and to be a resource for local medical personnel.

Dr. Craig Hinkle, Medical Director of Alaska, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Creighton University and went on to earn his Medical Doctorate from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, where he was named Outstanding Chief Resident. He is a Fellow of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Section Chair. He is also on the Advisory Board for the Alaska Division of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and he was the race director for the First Annual Ovarian Cancer Research Walk/Run in Anchorage in September of 2002.

Dr. Kara Cadwallader, Medical Director of Idaho, attended the University of California at San Francisco where she was part of the honors society known as Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA). She completed her residency at the Tacoma Family Medicine Program. She was a staff physician for Planned Parenthood of Golden Gate in their Rohnert Park, California health center. From there, Dr. Cadwallader moved to Idaho where she became a member of the faculty for the Idaho Family Medicine Program.

Both will work closely with Dr. Anna Kaminski, Associate Medical Director of PPGNW and Dr. Cam McIntyre, Medical Director of PPGNW, to provide medical leadership in the area of patient services, medical policy, and training medical staff in standards established by PPGNW.

## PPGNW Wins Affiliate Excellence Award

**Planned Parenthood** of the Great Northwest was recently honored with the 2009 Affiliate Excellence Award at the Federation's national meeting last March in Houston. The Ruth Mott Rawlings Mott Award for International Excellence is given each year to the affiliate that excels in the area of international family planning. This is the third Affiliate Excellence Award PPGNW has received in the last seven years. PPGNW was recognized for the building and support of Suzanne's Shelter in Nepal.



You might have read in past issues of FOCUS that Suzanne's Shelter is a facility located next to the regional hospital in the town of Phaplu, in the Solu Khumba district of eastern Nepal. The shelter serves as a "hostel" for women about to deliver their babies. Northwest-based SonoSite has also equipped the facility with portable ultrasound devices that help diagnose irregularities. When abnormalities in a pregnancy are detected, special accommodations can be made for that patient. This is important because Nepal is a very poor country and sufficient prenatal care is quite rare. And after mothers deliver their children, Suzanne's Shelter gives them a place to recover before making the long trek home through the mountains.

Suzanne's Shelter is financed through the Suzanne Cluett International Family Planning Endowment, which was created in 2005 by a generous gift from the Gates Foundation and Bill Gates Sr.

To find out how you can contribute to the Suzanne Cluett International Family Planning Endowment, please call (866) 674-2538 or click on [www.ppgnw.org](http://www.ppgnw.org), International Programs.

Teens participating at the annual summer retreat.



## Komen for the Cure from page 1

Aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women and is the number one cause of cancer death in Hispanic women. Approximately one in eight American women get breast cancer in their lifetime. Currently, more than 40,000 American women die of breast cancer each year. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the better the patient's chances are for survival.

Mammograms reveal changes in breast density that may indicate cancer. When this happens, further testing and possibly treatment is in order. Part of the "One Stop" program is to qualify patients in need of funding for additional tests and treatment, and to help schedule appointments with specialists.

In Boise, the free screenings were given April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Planned Parenthood health center at 3668 North Harbor Lane.

The "One Stop" Team will be at the Planned Parenthood Twin Falls health center June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 1:00pm. And finally, free screenings will be offered September 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA in Ketchum.

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Appointments can be made by calling (208) 376-9300.

**Susan G.**  
**Komen**  
FOR THE **cure**

## Youth Development Program Helps Keep Kids in School

**Amy Agnello remembers how she felt** when her first student walked across the stage with a cap and gown. "She was the first person in her family to ever graduate from high school," says Agnello, Youth Development Team Lead for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, "and it's amazing to see a kid flourish right before your eyes."

But seeing young people flourish is not so uncommon anymore in the eight years Agnello has been part of the Youth Development Pregnancy Prevention Programs in western Washington. The goal of the programs is to identify at-risk students, reduce unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and keep them in school where they have a better chance of overcoming the significant barriers to success they face everyday.

Youth Development is available to students between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The curriculum is tailored to each grade and devotes time to the development of decision making and critical thinking skills.

The program is free to students and their families, underwritten by several local foundations and by PPGNW affiliate revenues. Students meet weekly in a setting that's described as a hybrid of comprehensive sex education and support group. Each student receives 40 contact hours per year, sometimes in one-on-one meetings. In the nearly 15 years of the program, close to 1,500 middle and high school students have benefited in King, Pierce, Lewis, and Mason counties.

Another factor in the program's success is that educators maintain contact with the students for up to four years. This long-term approach pays off for students who may not have strong parental involvement. Many students take it upon themselves to keep in touch with their educators long after they are no longer in the program.

"This is a program that takes kids poised to fall out of the system, and gives them the tools they need to stay in it," says Carole Miller, Vice President of Education, Training, and Organizational Effectiveness for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest.

But all the good generated by the Youth Development program doesn't spare it from stark economic realities. The foundations that have historically been there for the program have cut back on their support. Unless more support from individual donors is increased, painful budget cuts could put the program at risk. It's darkly ironic that a program designed to help at-risk youth finds itself staring into an uncertain future. Please call 866-674-2538 and find out how you can keep our Youth Development program moving forward.

## In this Issue

- PP Partners Up for Free  
Breast Exams in Idaho 1
- New Med Directors in  
Alaska and Idaho 6
- Youth Development  
Program Helps At-Risk  
Teens 7

Planned Parenthood<sup>®</sup> is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We rely heavily on support from donors who help sustain responsible reproduction. Planned Parenthood<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Planned Parenthood<sup>®</sup> Federation of America, Inc. © 2009 Planned Parenthood<sup>®</sup> of the Great Northwest.

### Board Chair

Han Nachtrieb

### President/CEO

Christine Charbonneau

### Editor

Brian Cutler

### Contributors

Gitane Versakos,  
Kristen Glundberg-Prossor,  
Miles Gaborit

### Production

Diane Pettengill

### Contact Information

Planned Parenthood of  
the Great Northwest  
2001 E. Madison St.  
Seattle, WA 98122  
(206) 328-7529

### Visit our website

[www.ppgnw.org](http://www.ppgnw.org)



## Save the Date!

### *Future of Health: Fulfilling the Family Planning Promise*

**7:30pm** (Doors open at 6:30)  
**Thursday, June 11, 2009**  
**at Town Hall**

1119 8th Avenue, Seattle WA 98101



Please join Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Senior Research Associate Jennifer Frost in an eye-opening discussion of the recent report from the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the leading authority on advancing sexual and reproductive health worldwide.

Relevant findings show family planning programs provide basic healthcare for millions of women and prove that expanding services would benefit us all.

Admission is \$10. (Students are \$5 at the door with Student ID.) Ticket sales will benefit programs and services offered by Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest. To register visit [www.ppgnw.org](http://www.ppgnw.org) or call (206) 328-7529.