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FAMILIES TALKING are Parents' words matter most

Kids rank parents as the #1 influence on their sexual decisions – they need your guidance on sexuality whether or not they ask. We're here to help you start the conversation.

October is National Family Sexuality Education Month.

Parents and those caring for children of any age are invited to join Planned Parenthood at a workshop to learn when and how to talk with children about sexuality and how to answer their questions.

Activities include: discussion of childhood sexual development, deciding which values to share, and skill building around communication and answering questions.

Visit www.ppgnw.org/familiesaretalking to discover how your group or organization can host a workshop.

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PPGNW Collaboration Brings Life-Saving Cancer Screening to Underserved Women Across the Northwest

by Kristen Glundberg-Prossor, Media Relations Director

All women deserve access to basic cancer screening and other health services but too many are isolated by geography, transportation, or personal finances to get to a health center when they most need it. That's why Planned Parenthood and other generous organizations are leveraging their resources to

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Thank you for Standing with Us, in So Many Ways!

by Maureen Johnson, Development Officer

When politicians from both sides of the aisle, liberal and conservative political pundits, and the likes of comedians Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert create headline news about Planned Parenthood, you know something big is happening. Congress' 2011 "War on Women" was a difficult time for those of us on the front lines at Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW). We fought battle after battle, and thankfully we prevailed on the national funding front. We were thankful, grateful, and inspired... but weary.

And then the phones started to ring... and ring! It was as if our supporters collectively woke up one day, watched the news and thought, "This is enough! I need to do something to support Planned Parenthood!" And they did. They organized birthday parties; they hosted fundraising events, pub crawls, house

parties, and more. They sold items and gave us the profits, they talked to their friends, and they continued the conversation. They called us and said, "I Stand with Planned Parenthood."

Now, six months after the defunding vote, our advocates are still rallying and supporting us from the ground up and continuing to raise awareness for the vital work PPGNW does in our communities. In Juneau, long-time PPGNW supporter LaRae Jones used the occasion of her 65th birthday

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Executive Update Message from Michael Romo



Chris Charbonneau, CEO, has been on sabbatical this summer, recharging and getting ready to build our bridge to health care reform. We've been keeping the lights on.

That sounds simpler than it's been this year. Anti-choice legislation's been popping up all over the country as many conservative state governments have continued our 112th Congress' failed effort to defund Planned Parenthood and prevent access to basic health care. So much for government for the people; public support shown for our mission and those we serve has been overwhelming.

From grassroots fundraisers to impromptu rallies, supporters have been standing with us like never before. There have been art shows and concerts, walks and vigils, and donations large and small. Recently the Seattle Foundation hosted a GiveBig Day in support of local not-for-profit organizations. PPGNW received the second highest number of gifts and the highest total amount of the day. We were neck and neck in both races with the Seattle Public Library Foundation. It's nice to know that the Great Northwest still values institutions that provide access to learning, non-judgmental thinking, and choice.

This support is more important than ever because funding for our uninsured and low income clients continues to be an issue. Even hard fought wins to expand coverage for more women and their families can have delayed gratification. Our team helped pass Washington State's State Bill 5912 to expand coverage of *Take Charge* to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. But the newly covered won't be able to access care until the red tape's been removed, and that may not be until the beginning of 2012.

In the meantime, the circle remains unbroken. Kids become young adults and young adults go off to school or start families and young parents ponder the best ways to help their children model responsible behavior. We're here for all of them. We go back into school districts every year, mentoring at-risk youth and providing classroom programs to help prepare youth for adulthood. Real sexual education with accurate information has been proven to lead to positive decision making. Our *Families are Talking* program is entering its third year. We help parents share their values. After all, parents are the people kids value most. Let us know if you know anyone who could use our help in starting their families' conversation.

By the way, we also recently completed our accreditation review with Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). With Health Care Reform on the horizon, they're more stringent than ever. We achieved full accreditation. It's an amazing group of folks I get to work with; their dedication to our clients is unsurpassed. I guess that's why it's called being "mission driven."

Thank you for your continued support.


Michael Romo
Chief Operations Officer and Acting CEO

Legislative Report

by Kristen Glundberg-Prossor,
Media Relations Director

Institute of Medicine Recommends Coverage of Birth Control without Co-Pays

On July 19, 2011, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an independent, nonpartisan organization of health care professionals, recommended that contraception be covered as a preventive service under the new health care reform law. This recommendation brings us a step closer to ensuring that new health plans under the Affordable Care Act provide women with full access to birth control without charging co-pays or other out-of-pocket fees.

The cost of birth control can be a barrier even for women with health insurance. Co-pays for birth control pills typically range between \$15 and \$50 per month. A 2010 survey by Hart Research found that more than a third of women voters had struggled with the cost of prescription birth control at some point in their lives, and as a result, had used birth control inconsistently.

The recommendation also includes other key women's health services – annual exams, enhanced DNA Pap smears, and counseling and screening for HIV and domestic violence. The IOM's recommendation represents the single biggest opportunity to advance women's health in 45 years. It now goes to the Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) for final approval.

Breast Health Events

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ensure that women in remote or underserved communities can get this life-saving cancer screening.

In Clallam County, Washington, Planned Parenthood has partnered with the Puget Sound Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®; the Women's Funding Alliance; and the Breast, Cervical, Colon Health Program through Seattle/King County Public Health to offer the *Honoring Women's Health Program* (for more information on this program, call 360-452-2012). This program delivers health care via five mobile units traveling to Neah Bay, Quileute, Clallam Bay and twice to the Lower Elwah. The program also offers two days of screening at the PPGNW Port Angeles health center. *Honoring Women's Health* enables 115 uninsured or underinsured women in remote areas of the Olympic Peninsula to receive clinical breast exams. Another 300 women will receive essential breast, cervical and colon health education. No one sums it up better than one of our patients:

"This service means so much to all of us here in this community. I know in my heart that if you did not come out here I would not get my breast exams done. I did not do it before you started coming here and I would not do it if you stopped coming here. It gives me such a sense of security every year to get this done, and conveniently here where I live. A lot of people cannot travel to town – no transportation, expensive gas, so much time spent on the road – we're so glad that you come here for us." — Patient from the West End

In Idaho, Planned Parenthood has partnered with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Boise Affiliate, to fund the "One-Stop Cancer Screening Education and Outreach Program." This program offered at PPGNW's Boise and Twin Falls health centers targets uninsured, underinsured, minority, and refugee women in Idaho. During the past year, Idaho has fallen to fifty-first in the nation for women receiving mammograms. "The 'One-Stop' program couldn't be offered at a better time to help increase overall access to women's health in Idaho," said Rebecca Poedy, Chief Administrative Officer at PPGNW. The program consists of 13 screening dates and 12 education dates throughout 2011. It targets 242 women for screening and education, of which 70 may receive a free voucher for a mammogram off-site. For more information on the next screening, please call the Boise Health Center at 208-376-9300.

Earlier this summer, PPGNW partnered with the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska (BCDC) to provide essential screening to women ages 35 to 64. Our Soldotna Health Center offered breast health education, screening, and referrals for women living in rural Alaskan communities.

Early screening is critical: 98 percent of women treated for early stage breast cancer, before it spreads, are alive five years later. PPGNW is proud to partner with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Boise Affiliate; Puget Sound Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®; the Women's Funding Alliance, the Breast, Cervical, Colon Health Program and the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska to offer these life-saving screenings to women who otherwise wouldn't have access.

PPGNW's Lab Services Cooperative Goes National!

by Miles Gaborit,
Annual Campaign Manager

In May 2007, PPGNW opened its own medical lab in Bremerton, Washington. Since then, the lab has had a tangible effect on the quality of care our clients receive – accurate test results are returned faster – and it has become a significant source of new revenue for PPGNW, as testing fees that would have gone to a third-party lab are now being captured by PPGNW.

The lab worked so well for us that last April we began processing tests for Mount Baker Planned Parenthood and a short while later, Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and Northern Idaho. Working with the Co-Op has brought financial and quality-of-care benefits to both of those affiliates, too.

Now, just four years after its opening, and with the help of an infrastructure grant from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, we've just about got everything in place to take the Lab Services Co-Op nationwide!

This means that Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country will be able to realize the benefits that we've seen from the lab: faster test results for clients, and new revenue to power the affiliate's programs. This is a win for PPGNW, too, as the more affiliates who participate with the Lab Services Co-Op, the less the cost will be for us to keep it up and running.

Which, of course, means we can dedicate more of our resources to doing what we do best - providing quality, affordable healthcare to the women, men, and young people who need us most!

Daddy, I Do Film Screenings Draw Supporters

by Maureen Johnson, Development Officer

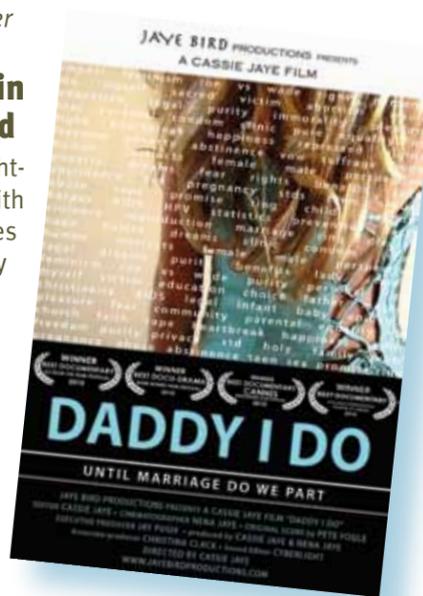
Over 400 PPGNW supporters in Anchorage, Boise, Juneau, and Seattle recently participated in thought-provoking screenings and discussions with Cassie Jaye, filmmaker of the 2010 Cannes Film Festival award-winning documentary “Daddy I Do.”

Jaye examines the effect of abstinence-only education programs versus comprehensive sex education in schools and what society can do to help lower teen pregnancies, abortions, and STDs, as well as poverty and sexual abuse. The film investigates the recent rise in popularity of “purity balls,” in which young girls pledge to their fathers that they will remain virgins until marriage, usually without any exposure to additional sexual health information. Jaye explores how this approach to sexuality continues a patriarchal tradition of controlling and valuing women’s virginity over women’s self-empowerment, as well as the future health of themselves and their families.

Jaye started filming *Daddy I Do* at age 21, and spent close to two years traveling across the United States interviewing dozens of people, and some unlikely heroes, from diverse walks of life to tell her story. She comments, “*Daddy I Do* shows how teen pregnancy, abortion, poverty, and sexual abuse all trace back to sex education in America. Opinions about sex stem from religious views, but it’s up to you, the viewer, to determine whether or not ideologies should decide what’s best for our children and our country. Knowledge is power, and we need to use that power towards good. I encourage you to see the deeper meaning behind ‘Daddy I Do’, in hopes of a better tomorrow through positive action.”

PPGNW was very pleased to screen these films for our supporters and highlight the critical work our education staff does in our communities bringing comprehensive sex education to over 7,000 students a year. Open and honest family communication is key to healthy, happy kids. We’re here to open the dialogue for families to share values while setting boundaries in responsible behavior.

We encourage you to host your own mini-screening and discussion of *Daddy I Do* to keep the dialogue going about these important issues. You can find more about Cassie Jaye and her films at: www.jayebirdproductions.com.



PPGNW and NWCAH Receive National APPLE Award

by Nathan Engebretson, New Media Coordinator

Each year, Planned Parenthood Federation of America recognizes top educators across the country with their Affiliate Planned Parenthood Leaders in Education (APPLE) Awards. We’re thrilled to report that Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest was one of six APPLE Award recipients this year!

PPGNW received the APPLE Orchard award for outstanding contributions to education, and specifically for the key part it played in forming the Northwest Coalition for Adolescent Health (NWCAH).

The NWCAH, a partnership between six different Planned Parenthood affiliates serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, was formed in 2010 to jointly address the most pressing reproductive health needs in Northwest communities. One of the NWCAH’s most notable achievements to date, and one of the reasons it received the APPLE Award, was securing a federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative grant totaling \$20 million. This grant funds proven, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs over five years in the 27 counties with the highest teen pregnancy rates across the five states.

Though the APPLE Award was presented to Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, it’s an honor we gladly share with the other NWCAH member affiliates: Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho, Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, Planned Parenthood of Montana, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon, and Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood. Congratulations all around!

Merger Creates Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

Effective July 1, 2011, the Northwest political arms of Planned Parenthood — PP VOTES! Washington, PP VOTES! Alaska and PP VOTES! Idaho — merged into a new 501(c)(4) organization called Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest (PPVNW). This new regional entity will serve as the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood 501(c)(3) affiliates in the states of Alaska, Idaho, and Washington.

Elaine Rose, the former CEO of Planned Parenthood VOTES! Washington, has been named CEO of PPVNW. Jennifer Allen will be PPVNW’s Director of Public Policy, and Dana Laurent will serve as Political Director for PPVNW.

“This is an exciting opportunity to expand our mission and grow the political power of Planned Parenthood advocates in Alaska, Idaho, and Washington,” said Rose, “Women and families in all three states will benefit from this new, strong regional voice for women’s health and rights.”

PPVNW will maintain a strong local presence in all three states to improve the climate for access to reproductive health care through lobbying, citizen advocacy, grassroots organizing, and civic engagement. PPVNW will also work to elect pro-choice / family planning candidates in federal, state, local, and judicial elections in all three states.

PP Votes Northwest Wins Excellence Award

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest (PPVNW), the lobbying and advocacy arm of PPGNW, recently won the 2011 State Public Affairs Network (SPAN) Excellence Award in Washington DC. SPAN is made up of public affairs professionals from throughout the federation. PPVNW was singled out for demonstrating innovation and creativity in public affairs work during the 2011 Washington State legislative session. In particular, the team received accolades for their work passing Senate Bill 5912 which increases income eligibility for the Washington State Take Charge program. Congratulations PPVNW!

States Continue Efforts to Defund Planned Parenthood

by Kristen Glundberg-Prossor, Media Relations Director

Although congressional efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and eliminate the Title X program (America’s Family Planning Program) were thwarted earlier in the year, the battle to defund Planned Parenthood has now turned to the states. Unfortunately, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Texas, and New Hampshire have all passed versions of legislation to defund Planned Parenthood. These measures deny hundreds of thousands of Planned Parenthood clients’ access to birth control, well-woman exams, STD prevention and treatment, education programs, life-saving cancer screening, and more. Planned Parenthood Federation of America has filed lawsuits in Indiana and Kansas.

During this current economic downturn, the timing couldn’t be worse for patients of Planned Parenthood across the nation. We’ve said it before and we’ll say it again: funding family planning is the fiscally responsible thing to do. Every dollar spent on family planning saves the government four dollars in costs associated with unintended pregnancy, within the same year.

Fiscal arguments, however, are not prominent in much of the debate. During the recent vote to defund Planned Parenthood from distributing contraception in New Hampshire, one of the five Executive Councilors actually said: “If they want to have a good time, why not let them pay for it? If you want to have a party, have a party, but don’t ask me to pay for it.” Shortsighted and absurd policy rationale like this neither promotes women’s health nor saves the states any money. Spread the word.

Choice Events in Alaska

by Caitlin Hedberg, Development Officer – Major Gifts Alaska

We're here for Alaskans and have been since 1966.

“Celebrating 45 years of Planned Parenthood in Alaska at the [May 13, ninth annual Celebration of] Choice Luncheon was a very powerful and moving experience for me,” says Brooke Ivy, a PPGNW Board of Advocates volunteer and granddaughter of Gerrie Ivy, a Planned Parenthood of Alaska founding member. “It was truly inspiring to see so many generations in the room showing such tremendous support for Planned Parenthood and all they stand for. I felt proud to see how very strong we are together.”

Supporters gathered in Anchorage at the luncheon to look towards the future for reproductive rights in Alaska and to honor all who paved the way. Thanks to those who helped make this year's Celebration of Choice so meaningful and inspiring, and also our most successful luncheon, raising over \$61,000.

The Anchorage Board of Advocates members at the Choice Luncheon wear feather boas in recognition of their volunteer efforts for PPGNW.



Left to right: Lorelei Costa, PPGNW Development Officer, Caitlin Hedberg, Jessica Moody, and Brooke Ivy.

Thank you also to everyone who attended May House Parties in Soldotna and Fairbanks to offer your perspective on how we can continue to strengthen our services and engage Alaskan supporters. These gatherings allow us to stay locally connected and relevant, and provide a forum for conversation. Joined by PPGNW President Christine Charbonneau, participants exchanged thoughts on the current challenges and successes of reproductive justice and PPGNW. Thanks to our hosts, Sharon and Dick Waisanen of Soldotna and Pam Groves of Fairbanks.

Here's to the next 45 years of reproductive health and Planned Parenthood in Alaska!



Standing With PP

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to ask her friends and family to donate \$65.00 to PPGNW. To date, proceeds from her birthday fundraiser exceed \$4,100!

Juan Alonso, a Seattle artist and long-time PPGNW supporter hosted his birthday party recently at his Pioneer Square studio and asked his friends to contribute to PPGNW in lieu of gifts. He also donated the proceeds of paintings sold that evening to PPGNW. Juan and his friends raised and contributed over \$4,800! Juan shares, “I am very pleased that my friends and colleagues have been so generous to PPGNW. I believe in the mission and will do what I can to support it for years to come.” Many of Juan's friends told us that night that he inspires others to do what they can for key community causes. Thank you, Juan, for choosing to direct your energies and influence to serve Planned Parenthood's mission!

PPGNW's Young Professionals group organized “Sexy Salon Days” and a “Bike and Brew” pub crawl, collaborative fundraisers with local businesses. Board of Advocates members in three states are hosting “friend-raisers”, dinner parties, and wine tastings to continue the conversation and raise the level of financial and volunteer support for our organization. One Board of Advocates member, Alicia Dara, is compiling a CD of original recordings by local artists to benefit PPGNW to be released later this autumn. Alicia comments, “I am honored to step up my volunteer work for PP. They have given so much to the music

community, and I'm excited to bring us together to give back to them. The project is currently called ‘Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest Benefit CD Compilation’, and you can find us on Facebook.”

In August alone, PPGNW supporters will host The Goddess Festival at the Wallingford Playground, and the owners of Olympic Cellars Winery will host a benefit concert in Port Angeles featuring the Beatles tribute band, Crème Tangerine. For more information on how to get involved or our upcoming events, please visit: www.ppgnw.org/getinvolved.

When the phones started to ring, the mailman started to get busy, too. Many of you took out your checkbooks and made meaningful, substantial contributions to our work. In fact, in March of 2011, we raised 260% of our fundraising goal for the month. We thank you again for your heartfelt support.

We are weary no more! We are energized, grateful, busy, and ready to take on the next challenge. We face continued government funding cuts (see page 3) and ongoing attacks from our detractors. We go into these next battles strong, thanks to you. We honor your investment in our work and will continue to fulfill the needs of those we are privileged to serve.

Please join us at one of the many upcoming community celebrations soon. We would be delighted to meet you and thank you in person for your partnership, engagement, and support. Thanks to you, we're here, and we will continue to be here for all who need us. Please join the PPGNW Facebook page to ensure you are the first to hear the latest news from PPGNW!

What can you do?

Call us with your ideas for hosting a house party or fundraiser.

Contact: Maureen Johnson, Development Officer, 206 328-6816 or Maureen.johnson@ppgnw.org.

Look online to find out about one of many fun community events at www.ppgnw.org/getinvolved.

PPGNW Takes Top Spot in GiveBIG Challenge

by Nathan Engebretson, New Media Coordinator



Q. What's better than donating a dollar to Planned Parenthood? A. Donating a dollar and having part of it matched by someone else.

That's what happened on June 23 during the Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG challenge, a fundraiser that generated over \$3.5 million for local nonprofits. Supporters of PPGNW were particularly generous. Donors from Alaska, Idaho and Washington helped PPGNW come in first out of 900 participating nonprofits as the organization with the largest total donation amount; 422 donors gave over \$73,000. Money raised during the one-day event was partially matched by a \$500,000 “stretch pool” provided by GiveBIG partners; the stretch match brought PPGNW's total to over \$83,700!

“We were excited about the potential of GiveBIG, and we promoted it far and wide... but we were absolutely blown away to discover we were #1 of 900! And over 400 people gave to us in one day! We raced through the halls spreading the news. What an incredible show of support for our work,” said Liz Reilly, PPGNW Director of Development.

Financially, GiveBIG will have a significant impact. The contributions will help offset some of the setbacks from the recent Washington State budget cuts to family planning funding. But board member Sonya Campion views PPGNW's top spot amongst the GiveBIG recipients as more than just dollars and cents. “It is a testament to the community's trust in Planned Parenthood and their belief in our vision of creating a safe environment for reproductive health care and ensuring that the next generation grows up with medically accurate sex education. We're

thrilled and humbled by the generosity of our supporters.”

The first place finish is part of a larger trend of support. During this time of unprecedented attacks, people are standing up for Planned Parenthood like never before. Whether it's writing a check, attending a rally, or sharing supportive comments on PPGNW's Facebook page, the pro-choice community is galvanized in its response to extremists whose goal is to eliminate Planned Parenthood and restrict reproductive health care.

“Planned Parenthood affiliates are facing real challenges,” says CEO Chris Charbonneau. “It seems like every other day another state is trying to defund an affiliate or enact bad legislation. But people care about us and the women, men, and families we serve. The results of GiveBIG should be a warning to any politician or policy maker who wants to use Planned Parenthood as a political football. Our supporters won't stand for it! We also feel that if someone is willing to make a donation, they are most likely going to vote their values when it comes to supporting legislation that increases access to women's health care.”

We are thankful to the Seattle Foundation for inspiring a generous day of giving which will make our community a more humane and beautiful place to live, and to all of our supporters for spreading the word about this opportunity and making gifts themselves. You've got our backs, and that means the world.