

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2009

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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SEPTEMBER IS GYN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
Woman of all ages can count on Planned Parenthood for any well-woman needs

GYN cancer affects women of all ages and walks of life. The broad classification includes five main and most common types of cancer that are associated with a woman's reproductive organs: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, women over 40 are often at higher risk for ovarian and uterine cancer, but HPV is also a leading risk factor for all females. The human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that can be passed from one person to another during sex, is the main cause of cervical cancer and also causes many vaginal and vulvar cancers.

Additionally, it is important to keep up with yearly exams because every 6 out of 10 cervical cancers occur in women who have never received a Pap test or have not been tested in the past five years.

“Planned Parenthood prides itself on serving women of all ages for their varying needs,” says Paula Gianino, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region. “We encourage women to educate themselves and to take control of their sexual health with preventative screenings.”

Planned Parenthood offers gynecological exams, cancer screenings, birth control services, as well as the HPV vaccine for females from 9 to 26 years old. Learn more about prevention at www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis, or call 1.800.230.PLAN to schedule an appointment for any well-woman needs at one of the six health centers.

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PLANNED PARENTHOOD LOCATIONS:

Central West End
4251 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 531-7526

St. Peters
208 Mid Rivers Center
St. Peters, MO 63376
(636) 279-3339

North County
Surrey Plaza II Shopping Center
2796-98 N. Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63033
(314) 921-4445

West County
1 Stonegate Center
Manchester, MO 63088
(636) 431-0030

Fairview Heights
Lakeland Square
4529 North Illinois
Belleville, IL 62221
(618) 277-6668

South Grand
3401 South Grand
St. Louis, MO 63118
(314) 865-1850

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MADE FOR WOMEN, STRONG ENOUGH FOR A MAN
September marks National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week

While most men consider themselves tough and macho, there are some things that they just can't treat by "walking it off." Smart men turn to Planned Parenthood for regular check-ups.

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week, September 20-26, offers men the opportunity to help decrease the yearly death rate of prostate cancer and take control of their sexual health. Prostate cancer is currently the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men and one in six men will get prostate cancer in his life. It is estimated that nearly 200,000 new cases will be diagnosed this year, but survival rate can be very high with early diagnoses and treatment. Those over 60 years old are at a higher risk and the cancer is more common in African American men.

Not just for women, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region offers a wide range of male services, and encourages regular cancer screenings and early treatment. Learn more about prevention at plannedparenthood.org/stlouis, or call 1.800.230.PLAN to schedule an appointment at one of the six health centers.

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