



# FOCUS

ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Spring 2012

## Teen Council Turns 20

By Jodi Bernstein  
Education Manager

### Most everyone knows

that Planned Parenthood has an Education Department, and that high quality sexuality education is an essential component of the Planned Parenthood mission. But did you know that PPGNW has one of the strongest education departments of the over 70 Planned Parenthood affiliates in the country? And the Teen Council program, in particular, is one of the department's sparkling accomplishments? This year the Teen Council program is coming of age. Yes, Teen Council is turning 20, and it is time to celebrate.

What exactly is Teen Council? The Teen Council is an award winning volunteer peer education program. The Council is comprised

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## Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest Expands Breast Health Services

by Kristen Glundberg-Prossor, Director of Media Relations  
and Liz Reilly, Director of Development

### On January 31, 2012 Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation

announced that it was ending future funding for breast cancer screenings and breast health education at Planned Parenthood health centers across the country. Komen's announcement provoked nothing short of a media firestorm that ultimately convinced them to reverse their decision four days later.

Prior to this announcement Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW), through our 10 year partnership with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, has provided breast health education, screenings, and referrals for mammograms — lifesaving care for women where Planned Parenthood is often their only source of health care.

Last year the Komen Puget Sound affiliate granted PPGNW \$52,492 to reach 400 Native-American, Latina, and underinsured rural women in Clallam County. The grant included a mobile unit that screened and administered mammograms as well. In Idaho, a \$23,544 Komen Boise grant helped PPGNW bring screening to 213 underserved women in the Boise-Twin Falls area — including special outreach to refugee women. The potential of losing this funding puts vulnerable women in immediate risk, but through future Komen Foundation grants and PPGNW's efforts to expand breast health services, these individuals will continue to receive access to lifesaving breast screening.

Support for Planned Parenthood and women in need of breast cancer screening in the last few months has been nothing short of astonishing. In reaction, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America has established the Planned Parenthood Breast Health Fund. During the Komen controversy, this new fund received more than \$3 million from thousands of people across the country in just three days. The fund's goal is to help Planned Parenthood affiliates who lost Komen grants and to enable them to continue providing breast health care. Additionally, PPGNW has committed at least \$200,000 to the expansion of our breast health work. Building upon our work with Komen Puget Sound, we are currently targeting an underserved portion of Clallam County in Washington. We are also working to expand outreach in Soldotna, Alaska and in the Boise-Twin Falls region in Idaho.

Many patients have contacted us to share their stories about how Planned Parenthood provided much-needed breast health care and education, along

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## Executive Update Message from Christine Charbonneau

**It feels like 1952** as our politicians discuss the merits of whether or not to support women's access to birth control if they want to avoid unintended pregnancy. What?

The vast majority of the population believes that people who plan their families, avoid pregnancy at inopportune times, and have healthy, wanted pregnancies at the time of their choice is such a societal good, that they would actually be willing to be taxed extra just to pay for such an intelligent solution — not that we are advocating an extra tax; our solution more than pays for itself.

The good news is that the work you have been supporting all of these years has actually paid off in a large way. Today, the CDC announced that between 2009 and 2010 teen pregnancy has dropped. While we have not caught up with the impressive rates the northern European countries enjoy, the United States went from 44 pregnancies per 1000 teens, to 34! We are now experiencing the lowest rate of teen pregnancy in our country since 1946. This is not just a teen phenomenon; this drop can be seen to a lesser degree in all ages of women, from all races.

What has caused this? Your believing in family planning. Your advocacy over the past 10 years spurred governments in many states to decide to fund contraception for low income women by extending Medicaid eligibility to women below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That has meant that young women came in for effective contraceptives like birth control pills, shots, and implants along with next generation, long-lasting “intrauterine systems” combining both hormones and tried and true IUD technologies. A single “Intra Uterine System” is good for five years of contraceptive confidence — enough time to get someone through school or to find a job with insurance. Your support helped push through the funding to expand these already effective, proven programs.

However, there is another vital factor at work in this success story: medically accurate, comprehensive sexuality education. In Washington State, you helped us pass the Healthy Youth Act, requiring comprehensive sex education if sex education were taught. Our Teen Council and TOP programs not only explain the basic facts of life to young people, but help them understand the benefits of planning their future; being a parent is easier when you are ready. More and more, today's young people have been empowered to wait to start families until life circumstances (education, relationship, finances, and



living situation) allow them to bring a wanted and loved new person into the world. And today their proactive choice is backed by those contraceptive methods that are more effective than any to which we've had previous access.

For all of these years, Planned Parenthood has been investing in young people and the educational tools that we know better their lives. We offer comprehensive sexuality education, today's better birth control, and generally help communities become healthier because of you. We're here because of your support.

We don't often give time towards celebration. We hope you join us in being very gratified by your role in this latest victory.

*Christine R. Charbonneau*

*Christine Charbonneau, CEO*

# Legislative Report

By Sara Kiesler, Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

**As we gear up for the 2012 election season,** we look back at a Legislative Session that offered a number of surprises, including two important anti-choice bills that were stopped in Idaho, a win in Alaska, and mixed results after a never-ending legislative session in Washington.

## Alaska

**The legislative session is winding down,** and there is some good news from Alaska: we are expecting an increase in prevention funds to launch a Chlamydia education campaign, increase the capacity of the state lab and provide treatment options for partners. Alaska remains number one for Chlamydia infections in the US.

We made phone calls, contacted legislators and worked with allies to gear up for a YES vote April 4 on the One Anchorage Initiative, Proposition 5. Unfortunately, Prop 5 failed, though we are sorting through Election Day issues such as ballot shortages. Proposition 5 would have added sexual orientation and gender identity to the Anchorage Human Rights code.

## Idaho

**With four anti-choice bills** in a grueling Idaho legislative session, we are celebrating unexpected victories, including a huge turnout from supporters. House bill (H) 530, which would have allowed any employer to exclude insurance coverage for contraceptives, was scheduled for public hearing on our Lobby Day, and we packed the room with hundreds of supporters! Thirteen of the 19 people that testified against the bill were our Lobby Day attendees. With so much public opposition, H 530 never resurfaced.

Mirrored after the nationally mocked Virginia ultrasound bill, Senate bill 1387 drew 300 protesters to a rally against it and at least six editorials against it. The bill passed the Senate 23-12, but after national media attention due to sponsor Senator Chuck Winder's suggestion that women use rape as an excuse for abortion, the bill never made it out of the extremely anti-choice House!

We will continue working to add the words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the Idaho Human Rights Act, though it has yet to be given a public hearing.

## Washington

**The Washington legislature** was unable to come to agreement on a budget during both the regular 60 day session and another 30 day special session which ended on April 10th. Then, in the wee hours of April 11th, they convened a second special session, worked through the night, passed a budget in the morning, and adjourned for 2012.

The good news is that the final budget included NO cuts to family planning, although anti-choice legislators fought as hard as they could to get it cut right until the end. This tremendous success was due to amazing, unceasing efforts by our Washington field team as well as all of you and other activists across Washington that the House and Senate majority Democratic Caucuses held strong against any cut to family planning funding.

The bad news is that the Reproductive Parity Act, which required all pregnancy options, including abortion, to be covered as the Affordable Care Act is implemented in Washington State, was never brought to a vote on the Senate floor and is therefore dead for this year. It is rare to pass a bill the first year it is tried, and this year was not the exception to that rule. Planned Parenthood should be extremely proud of the progress we did make, getting the Reproductive Parity Act through the House and right up to the point of passage in the Senate. On to 2013!



## Teen Council Turns 20

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*Pierce County  
Teen Council at  
their training retreat*

of local high school students who, through weekly trainings with a highly skilled facilitator, become effective and passionate peer sexuality educators and advocates. Throughout the school year members receive weekly trainings on a wide range of topics including sexual decision making, birth control, how to avoid sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, relationships, body image, race and privilege, self-esteem and more. The trainings are informative, interactive, and empowering. Teen Council members use the knowledge and skills they gain to give presentations in middle and high school classes in their communities. They become leaders in their schools and communities, and provide resources, information, referrals, and guidance to their peers and families.

**Currently** there are seven teen councils in western Washington with a new one starting in Juneau, Alaska next fall. Since its inception 20 years ago, over a thousand students have been a part of Teen Council and tens of thousands of lives have been touched by this program. The impact of the Teen Council experience lasts long after graduation. As one alumnus said, "I first joined Teen Council 10 years ago, when I was a junior in high school. Nearly a decade later, Teen Council still remains very much a part of my heart, my conscience, and my education. I now work in the field of public health in South Africa, a country introduced to me through Teen Council. I owe much of my current situation to Planned Parenthood's belief in the education and leadership of young people." We hear similar sentiments again and again.

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Teen Council's Vision is to provide accurate, unbiased, and useful sexuality education; to end ignorance, promote tolerance, and improve communication between teens and the important people in their lives.

## Mark your calendar!

In honor of Teen Council's 20th anniversary, we are hosting a huge bash this summer in Seattle. Join us on **July 7, 2012** as we celebrate PPGNW's excellent education programs and showcase Teen Council at our inaugural **Sex Ed Block Party** followed by a Teen Council alumni reunion dinner. With inspiring speakers, live music, food, and games aplenty, this all-ages event will have something (awesome) for everyone. And Guess who's coming to celebrate with us?  
**Cecile Richards, PPFA President!**

Tell all your friends! RSVP REQUIRED at [www.ppgnw.org/SexEdblockparty](http://www.ppgnw.org/SexEdblockparty).  
*We look forward to seeing you there.*

## Teen Council

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**It comes as no surprise** that affiliates around the country have requested information about how to replicate this powerful program. To this end PPGNW's Peer Education Institute was born in 2011. Our Peer Education Institute will serve as a resource to others with peer education programs, and help organizations start new programs. A detailed and definitive manual will be ready to publish in June, along with a plan to train others to set up their own thriving Teen Council program. The Institute will also allow us to conduct a program evaluation using a nationally renowned evaluator, filling a huge national gap. The program is so powerful that currently

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*"Teen Council helped me realize how great it feels to make a difference, create social awareness and encourage positive social change."*

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four of PPGNW's seven groups are facilitated by Teen Council alum – members who felt such passion for the program that they got the education and training they needed after high school to come back to the Teen Council.

## TOP Takes on Service Learning Projects

By Morgain MacDonald, Educator

**In late 2010 PPGNW was awarded** a five-year grant by the Office of Adolescent Health to implement the evidence-based pregnancy prevention program Teen Outreach Program™ (TOP®). TOP engages teens in curriculum guided discussion and community service throughout the school year. PPGNW staff are delivering TOP in middle and high schools in Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. Program outcomes for participating teens include significantly lower risk of school suspension, course failure, pregnancy, and school drop-out.

As spring draws near TOP facilitators are in the thick of "Service Learning," the aspect of the program shown to demonstrate the most impact. Each group of club youth choose, organize, and contribute 20 hours toward their service projects throughout the course of the year. Highly-trained staff guide them in developing and implementing project goals.

At North Mason High School in Belfair, Washington, TOP teens have identified the issues they believe to be the most challenging to their communities. While engaging in dialogue during TOP club time, young people navigate personal beliefs and values around community issues and explore how to provide relevant service. The students created *Potty Talk*, a newsletter published by the TOP group and hung up in both student and faculty bathroom stalls at the high school. *Potty Talk* serves as a public awareness announcement and bulletin, covering topics from civil rights leaders to violence prevention; due to staff and student demand the club is now publishing it twice a month.

TOP students in the ninth and tenth grades at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska, created a "compliment mob" for other students and the citizens of

Sitka. They wrote anonymous postcards with compliments, created a gigantic, "Smile. You're beautiful," sign and secretly placed it at the school entrance and placed three additional signs in random and unexpected places in town.

In Idaho, the Caldwell High School club determined that working with children was critical to them. The group honed their research skills and pinpointed different ways to work with youth. They landed on providing the children with a fun opportunity and put together a Winter Carnival complete with games, cookie decorating, and arts and crafts. The TOP teens' thoughtful preparation, planning, and fundraising made the event a great success!

When not working on service learning projects, PPGNW staff utilize the TOP curriculum to help youth develop communication skills, build goals, and of course learn more about sexuality and making healthy decisions!



Caldwell High, Idaho



Mt. Edgecumbe High, Sitka, AK



North Mason High, Belfair, WA



## WhereDidYouWearIt.com Earns National Media Attention

By Nathan Engebretson  
New Media Coordinator

### PPGNW's new interactive condom website,

WhereDidYouWearIt.com, has earned international praise and recognition since its launch during National Condom Week in February. The site, which allows users to celebrate their responsible behaviors by anonymously sharing their safer sex shout out, has received more than 140,000 unique visitors and over 10,000 check-ins from all 50 states and from six continents. There has been extensive news coverage of the project including stories in the *Seattle Times*, *CNET*, *Mashable*, *Men's Health*, the *Huffington Post*, *MSN*, *CBS*, *NBC*, and *Time*.

The goal of WhereDidYouWearIt.com is to advocate safe sex practices and help normalize condom use among college students and 20-somethings by showing that safe sex is normal, mature behavior, and still enjoyable. As the tagline proclaims, "Safe Sex Happens. Be Proud to Wear Protection," the site gives people an opportunity to celebrate their own healthy behaviors while at the same time leveraging their user-generated check-ins to promote responsible decision making.

There are over 100,000 condoms with QR codes linking to the site still out there, so while the media attention has died down, the check-ins and the condom outreach continues.

## Komen and Breast Health Care

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with vouchers and referrals to help them get vital biopsies, ultrasounds, and mammograms – care that has improved or saved their lives. Most importantly we follow up to make sure our patients are cared for with the attention they need and deserve.

We want to share an especially heartfelt story from Tia, one of our patients.

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*"I was 21 when I felt a large mass in my left breast. Being an unemployed college student with no health insurance, I took advantage of the services that Planned Parenthood provided which included a free breast exam. The woman who screened me was pleasant and supportive, but she believed that something was definitely wrong with the lump in my breast. She kindly referred me to a nearby women's clinic for follow up, but after trying to schedule an appointment for weeks I found out that the women's clinic had just been shut down due to a lack of funding. Freaking out, I turned back to Planned Parenthood, who worked with local providers to get me seen immediately. As it turned out, the mass in my breast was a very fast growing tumor. Fortunately, we caught it in time, and were able to use radiation treatment and a lumpectomy to remove it completely. I am now cancer free, and still have my health, and my breasts, thanks to Planned Parenthood."*

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At Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW) we want to make sure that any woman – regardless of her financial situation – can receive breast health education, screening, and vouchers and referrals for mammograms. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Komen partners, leaders, and volunteers, and supporters like you. Thank you so much for your voice and for standing with us.

# Voices of Experience Speak About Planned Parenthood

By Caitlin Hedberg, Development Officer

## Some of our key supporters remember the realities of life

before *Roe v. Wade*. They donated, marched, and volunteered in the early days of Planned Parenthood, contributing to the progress we have made as a movement.

This January, 10 such loyal donors offered to share their stories and words of wisdom on video. These seasoned advocates sometimes express a concern that younger generations do not fully understand the value of access to reproductive health care and rights, the barriers overcome to achieve them, or what it might mean to lose these rights. As we now find ourselves in the surprising position of having to argue the benefits of and right to birth control all over again, their historical perspective can show us that progress has been huge and real, and caution us against resting on our laurels.



My 97-year-old grandfather is one of those long-time supporters that shared his perspective on video. I wanted to capture the thoughts that he shared with me growing up — about women’s rights, including the right to choose. He was a minister for most of his life, and instilled in me a real sense of the morality of access to health care for all. In many ways, I attribute my professional journey that has led me to Planned Parenthood to the strong family values he passed along through the generations.

In addition to the video of my grandfather, we will be releasing

short vignettes of the words of wisdom offered by other elders of our movement who have been contributors to Planned Parenthood for decades. Look for them soon on Facebook, Twitter, in your email inboxes, and at upcoming events.

The biggest lesson for me from these videos is that without access, the right to choose means nothing — and Planned Parenthood has led the way in ensuring that all women have access to high-quality health care regardless of their ability to pay.

One interviewee, a dignified 83-year-old woman who accessed her first birth control at her local Planned Parenthood in the 1950s when she was married and without much money, concluded our interview by reflecting on what she has learned in her years fighting for women’s rights and access to reproductive health care. She concludes, “we all share equal responsibility to take care of our human family.” Thank you to these donors for their many contributions to our movement and to Planned Parenthood!

# 9th Circuit Court Upholds Rx Refusal

By Laura Einstein, Chief Legal Counsel

## On February 22, 2012,

Washington State District Court Judge Leighton held that pharmacists and pharmacies are not required to dispense Emergency Contraception if they object to doing so because of their religious beliefs. His ruling eviscerated a Board of Pharmacy rule that PPGNW and other PP affiliates encouraged the Board of Pharmacy to adopt, and which it helped defend in Court — a rule that required pharmacies to provide all FDA approved drugs (not just EC) to patients. The decision comes in the midst of an alarming movement around the nation to undermine a wide range of women’s family planning and reproductive care services. The Court’s decision is yet another example of women’s access to health care being undermined.

The State of Washington and PPGNW, on behalf of individuals who are concerned about their access to needed medications, have appealed the decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The United States Supreme Court has previously held that a neutral law that applies to everyone is Constitutional even if it impacts the religious beliefs of certain people. When the rule was adopted, the Board of Pharmacy clearly stated it was intended to ensure prompt access to all medications; getting medications on site and on time was the best way to address important public health needs. Despite the rules’ important purpose and obvious neutrality, Judge Leighton determined that the rule singled out the religious beliefs of pharmacists and pharmacies.





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## JOIN PLANNED PARENTHOOD ON MAY 2 FOR A ONE-DAY OPPORTUNITY TO

# give BIG

**GiveBIG** is a one-day, online charitable giving event organized by the Seattle Foundation that will make your support of Planned Parenthood go even further. On May 2, gifts to Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest will be **matched TWICE** – The Seattle Foundation will match a share of each gift AND anonymous local donors will match gifts dollar for dollar, up to \$60,000! Please spread the word about this and **please GiveBIG on May 2!**

*Only donations made on May 2 through  
[seattlefoundation.org](http://seattlefoundation.org)  
via credit card are eligible for matching funds.*



*For more information visit [ppgnw.org/givebig](http://ppgnw.org/givebig) or call us at 1.866.674.2538.*