

# The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

## Peer Educator Summit 2012 By Staci Rickman

DETROIT — On April 28, three Something to Say (STS) youth attended the Peer Educator Summit in Detroit at First Congregational Church. The church is a living history museum for the Underground Railroad and all students participated in a tour.

Students got to experience what it would feel like to wander around in the dark woods and learned about what the slaves had to go through to get to freedom. Tour guides talked about symbols, songs, and signs that helped guide the slaves to safety. Students learned that this was no easy task and often took up to a year. After the tour, students drew similarities between the abolitionist movement and other social justice movements, including reproductive justice.

The summit wrapped with the students completing an activity in which they chose an image from stock photos that best represented the legacy they wanted to leave behind in regard to their work with social justice movements. STS students agreed that this was by far the best PE Summit they had ever attended!

## To Holland, With Love By PPWNM Friend Michael May

GRAND RAPIDS — At Rosa Parks Circle on May 4, PPWNM staff and volunteers gathered with friends organized by the Holland group Until Love Is Equal to send a message to Holland

and members of the Holland City Council in hopes of them reconsidering their June, 2011, vote against an anti-discrimination ordinance giving gays and lesbians equal rights in Holland.



The ordinance was approved by Holland's Human Relations Commission unanimously and then defeated by the City Council, making it permissible in Holland to terminate, evict, refuse service or otherwise discriminate against a person because of their perceived or real sexual orientation or gender identity.

Until Love Is Equal organizers sent their message of love and support to the residents and workers of Holland to let them know Grand Rapids has an ordinance (since 1994!) making it a safe and welcoming place; and sending hope that their city will soon do the same!

Individuals, all wearing bright red shirts, gathered together, forming the shape of a huge heart. With giant streamers acting as an equal sign, a helicopter photographer did a fly-over, capturing an image of the crowd.



## PPAM Begins Monthly Volunteer Nights in Muskegon and Grand Rapids

To get a head start on Get Out The Vote efforts in 2012, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM), the state Planned Parenthood office, is hosting monthly volunteer nights in Muskegon and Grand Rapids.

The first Muskegon event, held on May 15 at Harbor United Universalist Church, featured a presentation on Talking About Choice. Volunteers who attended were also treated to free pizza, giveaways, and a chance to mingle with other volunteers.

The Grand Rapids volunteer night, held on May 17 at the PPWNM Administration Building, also featured free pizza and mingling but the focus was on sign-making and volunteer sign-ups for the Stop WOW Rally at Rosa Parks Circle on May 24 (read about the rally in the July *Pulse*). After listening to a short talk about the legislative War on Women, volunteers made rally signs and chose their job assignments for the event.

These volunteer nights will continue throughout the summer, culminating in a huge Get Out the Vote campaign in early fall. For more information, please email [publicaffairs@ppwnm.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppwnm.org).

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Sources: PPAM, *Until Love Is Equal*