



A Word from Ashley

Ashley Coffield, CEO

We believe in the autonomy of individuals to make informed, un-coerced health care decisions. Choosing a birth control method is complicated; no one method is right for everyone. We have a superb online tool, **My Method**, which helps women and teens choose the right birth control method for them.

Continuing a pregnancy is also a serious health decision. Families need to make their own difficult, private decisions without interference from government or others who have their own agendas.

PPGMR and Planned Parenthood Middle and East Tennessee have formed Vote No on 1, to educate Tennessee voters about Amendment 1, a change to our constitution that would make it possible for politicians to pass even more restrictions on abortion with no regard for when a woman's health is in danger or she has been the victim of rape or incest. The Vote No on 1 campaign is our top priority this year.

We've hired an experienced community organizer who is building Community Action Teams in West Tennessee, made up of volunteer activists committed to mobilizing friends in support of Planned Parenthood and the Vote No on 1 campaign. With our sister affiliate, we have formed dozens of Community Action Teams across the state.

We recently commissioned a statewide poll that shows voters in Tennessee think that Amendment 1 is flawed and dangerous. They do not want the legislature to pass more restrictions that would ban abortion even in extreme circumstances. Many of your fellow Tennesseans agree that women need as many options as possible when making decisions about reproductive health care.

This is a winnable campaign. Stay tuned to learn how we will win it together.

Donors and Artists Beautify Health Center

Our patients deserve the highest-quality experience of dignity and care when they visit our health center, and that includes surroundings that are inspiring, and even beautiful. This aspiration led to a multi-phased Placemaking Project, and the first phase was a donor-funded collaboration with the Urban Art Commission (UAC) to commission art for the health center lobby, waiting rooms, hallways and exam rooms.

PPGMR requested works of art from Memphis-area artists that reflect the young, urban, positive outlook representative of the people and community we serve, with a distinctive Memphis flair. UAC project manager Brittney Bullock coordinated the project, commissioning a mural artist for the building lobby and individual works of art for the health center interior spaces. A ***Continued on page 2*** >



Joseph Boyd and his wife Lauren Boyd, who inspired his painting, "Bliss."

PPGMR CALENDAR

National Teen Pregnancy
Prevention Month – **MAY**

National Women’s Health Week –
MAY 11–17

Planned Parenthood Community
Action Team Intro Meeting –
MAY 21

RSVP to Joan Carr at
901-725-3008 by May 19th

Volunteer for PPGMR’s Table at
the Memphis Roller Derby Bout –
JUNE 21

Call Joan Carr at 901-725-3008
to volunteer!

National HIV Testing Day –
JUNE 27

Volunteer for PPGMR’s Table at
the Memphis Roller Derby Bout –
JULY 12

Call Joan Carr at 901-725-3008
to volunteer

Federal and State Primary
and Shelby County General
Election – **AUGUST 7**

Volunteer for PPGMR’s Table at
the Memphis Roller Derby Bout –
AUGUST 9

Call Joan Carr at 901-725-3008
to volunteer!

Donors and Artists Beautify Health Center

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selection committee comprised of PPGMR donors, community partners, and staff determined the final collection.

Local artist April Pierce designed the lobby mural. The following artists contributed works for the interior health center spaces: Nathan Black, Alisa Botto, Joseph Boyd, Jenn Brandt, Traci Brothers-McDaniel, Sean Davis, Maria Ferguson, Ron Fondaw, Matt Ivey, Kia Lola, Chip Pankey, Jack Robinson Archive, Monty Shane, and Jermel “Ziggy” Tucker.

The artists and their families, as well as PPGMR supporters and donors, enjoyed an *An Artful Space: Works from Greater Memphis*, for a Greater Memphis opening reception at the health center on March 20th. If you would like to tour the health center to see the new collection and learn more about our Placemaking Project, please contact Aimee Lewis at alewis@ppgmr.org or 901-725-3051.



Included in the works contributed for the health center — Top: Artist Kia Lola with her work #4. Bottom: Artist Jermel “Ziggy” Tucker and his work “Viberian Sun.”

We Are Growing!

Six new PPGMR staff members have started this year. Each of our new employees brings unique expertise and skills, and they represent a major investment in the education, health center services and advocacy.

Pictured, from left to right: Orisha Bowers, HIV Educator; Ashley Jones, Youth Educator; Jarobin Holmes, Revenue Cycle Assistant; Latrina Moore, Certified Medical Assistant; and Gail Tyree, Community Organizer. Not pictured, Gabriela Herrada, Bilingual Educator.



University of Memphis Generation Action

Planned Parenthood's University of Memphis Student group is changing its name from Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood to Generation Action. The name change is fitting, because these student activists are planning more actions on campus than ever before. They conduct regular outreach events like this Get Yourself Tested table at in the University Center, where they distributed condoms and information about STD testing.

Below, left to right: Alicia Clark, Sarah Hoover and Starnisha Shelton.



Left to right: Orisha Bowers, Ashley Jones, Elokina CaPece and Aimee Lewis.

Free Condoms Memphis Update

Free Condoms Memphis, PPGMR's condom distribution program, continues to grow beyond all expectations. The HIV prevention program provides free condoms to more than 60 community distribution sites – including barbershops, nail salons, nightclubs and churches – which offer them free to the public. On the website, FreeCondomsMemphis.org, a site locator helps clients find convenient distribution sites.

The program is especially good at working with community partners and leveraging donations from state and local organizations, like this donation of 100,000 condoms from the Tennessee Department of Health, delivered to our health center on April 3rd. Free Condoms Memphis distributed 103,100 condoms in 2013, and is well on its way to exceeding that for 2014, distributing 63,525 in just the first four months of this year.



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Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region (PPGMR), founded in 1938, is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Our mission is to ensure broad public access to reproductive and related health care through health center services, education, advocacy, and community partnerships serving 42 counties in West Tennessee, North Mississippi and East Arkansas.

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Left to right: KaDarian Stewart, Brandais Tyus, and Mariah Scott are University of Memphis students who completed Sexperts peer educator training in April.