

DIALOGUE

PLANNED PARENTHOOD *of* THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

WINTER 2013

CARE.
NO MATTER
What.

Planned Parenthood's mission is as relevant today as it was when we were founded in 1916. In fact, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made us even more relevant as we expect to see an increase in patients as it is implemented. Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains will be here for those newly-insured; we will also continue to be here for those who are not able to benefit from the new law. And we do this without receiving any Title X funding, which subsidizes health services to low-income patients.

As a non-profit, any revenue surplus is reinvested in our mission to assist and provide our patients with the care they need. In the past we have managed to be there for those in need of high quality, affordable health care, all the while fighting intense political battles to ensure women's access to reproductive health care remains intact. As seen in 2012, and continuing in 2013, persistent attacks on women's health care access are increasing. PPRM, often the lead advocate in these battles, must invest in advocacy to ensure our patients' ability to access our care is not jeopardized. Our advocacy work is essential to keeping the doors to our health centers open. This work also ensures a political environment in the Rocky Mountain West that is supportive and respects a woman's ability to make personal, private medical decisions. Women depend on us to stand strong in the face of opposition.

We are proud of our past ability to provide health care for those in need while also advocating for access to women's health care. But with high costs associated with technological upgrades required by the ACA and no end in sight to the political battles we must fight, PPRM must now turn to our loyal donors for even greater support. Donors like you keep Planned Parenthood strong, as an advocate for reproductive rights, a provider of high-quality, affordable health care, and an expert in reaching young people with sexual health information.

Your generosity transforms lives. Again, PPRM does not receive any Title X funding. That means we are entirely dependent upon the revenues we generate from those who can pay in our health centers and on donated funds from supporters like you. With your help, we will continue to transform lives by caring, educating, and protecting the rights of the women, men, and young people who rely on us. PPRM has been here for women for nearly 100 years; our plan is to be around for another 100 years.

Your support allows us to do this essential work. From all of us here at PPRM — thank you.

Dicki Cowart, PPRM PRESIDENT AND CEO

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From left: Courtnee Ulrich (PPRM and PPVC Board Member), Cecile Richards (PPFA and PPAF President)



From left: Vicki Cowart (PPRM and PPVC President & CEO), Sen. Pat Steadman, Rep. Crisanta Duran, Dr. Mark Thrun (PPRM and PPVC Board Member)

CHAMPIONS of CHOICE

CECILE COMES TO TOWN

Planned Parenthood Votes Colorado (PPVC), the affiliated political advocacy arm of PPRM, held the second annual Champions of Choice event on September 19. The reception, hosted by PPVC supporter Ted Trimpa, honored Sen. Pat Steadman and Rep. Crisanta Duran for their work in the legislature supporting women’s health. Guests also had the exciting opportunity to mingle with special guest Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Cecile spoke on the political importance of Planned Parenthood and the necessity of supporting candidates and elected officials who advocate for women’s health. The political accomplishments of Sen. Steadman and Rep. Duran underscore Cecile’s message, as their achievements benefit not only women, but all Colorado residents.

CHOICE AFFAIRS 2013 a SUCCESS!

Choice Affairs celebrated its 26th season with more than \$80,000 raised in ticket sales alone, all of which directly benefits PPRM’s award-winning Responsible Sex Education Institute. From Denver to Durango, 72 hosts gathered to throw 13 different theme parties, bringing many new friends into the mission. Those hosts also generously covered the cost of the events, raising even more for comprehensive sex ed.

Anyone interested in joining the Choice Affairs party in 2014 can contact Jaime Marston, Manager of Events, at jaime.marston@pprm.org or 303.813.7640. Planning for next season begins now!



Brews, Brats and Blugrass Choice Affair hosts

NEW HORIZONS

for THE RESPONSIBLE SEX EDUCATION INSTITUTE



The Responsible Sex Education Institute continues to move in new and exciting directions as we work toward achieving our goals of reducing teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted infections among teens. The Institute has recently completed an extensive community needs assessment across our four-state region. One piece of the assessment that we are particularly enthusiastic about is a project called Photovoice, a collaborative participatory research methodology used in academic settings, which is considered a best practice in the education field. We asked youth who had been involved in our Dollar-A-Day pregnancy prevention program to document through photographs the aspects of their lives that make it easy or difficult to stay sexually healthy. The photos and narratives the youth contributed helped identify recurring themes we plan to address through our curriculum. We also considered shifting population demographics, new sex education standards, and increasing influences from technology and social media.

The results of this assessment have demonstrated a compelling need to diversify our program offerings and tailor our program menu to more closely align with local needs. The community-level data and identified needs in Durango, for example, vary significantly from needs in Denver due to the distinct diversity of their populations. We are finalizing our identification of tailored interventions and the Responsible Sex Education Institute staff will implement new curricula in January 2014. The implementation of these program changes will require us to purchase new curricula, train staff and develop new evaluation tools. These investments increase the impact of our programming and serve our mission in a more tailored and strategic way.

DONORS' GENEROSITY AT WORK

in WYOMING

PPW is committed to making all aspects of family planning, as well as basic health services like life-saving cancer screenings, more accessible and affordable to underserved women and families. Generous Wyoming donors have entrusted PPW with their gifts to ensure compassionate and non-judgmental care is available for those in need. Several funds have been established for our Wyoming patients, including a sliding fee scale for patients living at or below 150 percent of the federally-defined poverty level.

Annually, almost 50 percent of all patients qualify for our sliding fee scale due to their income level. This fee scale allows patients to obtain affordable health services, including annual exams for as little as \$72 and birth control pills for as little as \$17. If a patient cannot pay the sliding fee, she or he can access the Clients in Need Fund which provides financial aid for the most medically underserved people in our community seeking preventive care.

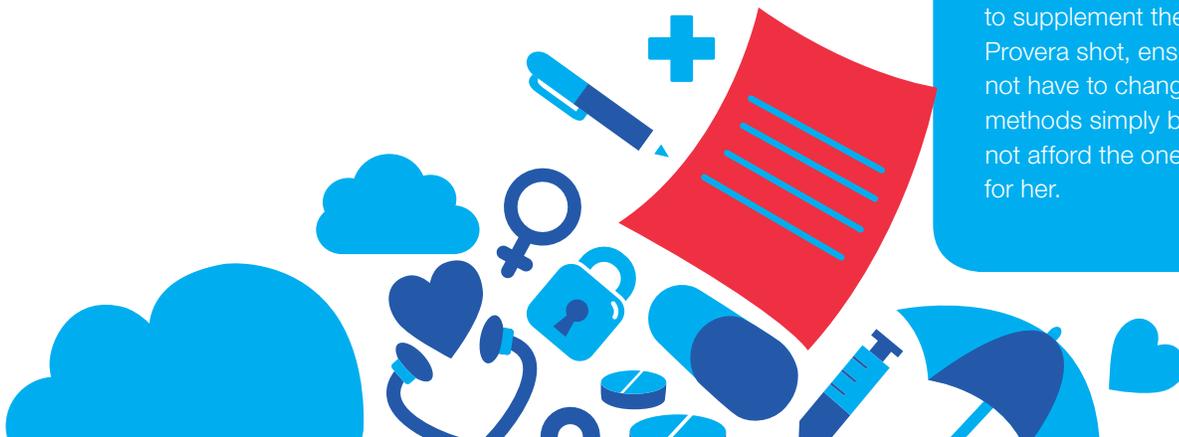
Rounding out the funds available for those in need is our Wyoming Abortion Fund, which ensures women have affordable access to abortion care. Abortion providers are scarce in Wyoming, meaning women may need to travel hundreds of miles and possibly to another state to access a safe option that is their legal right. Thankfully, the Emily Stevens Fund allowed PPW to establish the Wyoming Abortion Fund in 2004. Women who live in Wyoming who need an abortion but cannot afford one, can contact PPW for a confidential consultation. If a woman qualifies, the Wyoming Abortion Fund will pay all or a portion of the cost of the procedure and other expenses. Since 2004, the fund has helped over a thousand women obtain abortions, either through Planned Parenthood or other medical providers.

Every day we see the impact our endowment has on the lives of our patients. We are grateful for all of our Wyoming supporters, who keep our funds financially sound. On behalf of our patients, thank you for believing that women, men and teens should not have to sacrifice their health care because they cannot afford it.

A 19-year-old patient, who supports herself and her baby on just \$300 a month, came to our health center in need of birth control. She told our staff that she has trouble remembering to take the birth control pill every day and was looking for another method. As she was already struggling to make ends meet, an unplanned pregnancy would be financially devastating for her. After receiving education on all the birth control options available, she decided on Depo Provera, a shot she would receive every 12 weeks, which is 99 percent effective at preventing pregnancy and requires no daily maintenance.

“SHE DID NOT HAVE TO CHANGE BIRTH CONTROL METHODS SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE COULD NOT AFFORD THE ONE THAT WORKED BEST FOR HER.”

Recently, the patient returned to the health center and requested to switch back to the birth control pill. When staff inquired why she wanted to change from a method that has been very successful for her, she informed them that she was unable to pay the full amount to receive her shot. Fortunately, thanks to a generous grant from the Margaret H. and James E. Kelley Foundation that supports our Teen Health Services Project, our health center was able to supplement the cost of her Depo Provera shot, ensuring she did not have to change birth control methods simply because she could not afford the one that worked best for her.



WAR — on — WOMEN TARGETS ALBUQUERQUE

The last two years set records for the extent of bad legislation that was introduced and passed to restrict women's health. New Mexico is the latest state facing attacks over a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion. On November 19, Albuquerque residents will vote on an extreme bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. This is the first abortion-related municipal ballot initiative to ever go before voters in the nation. PPNM, along with our coalition partners, is leading the campaign to defeat this callous measure. New Mexico has a proud history of respecting our diverse personal and religious beliefs, including our differing views about ending a pregnancy. Honoring this tradition, we must respect the circumstances and beliefs that inform a woman's decisions regarding her pregnancy. A woman doesn't turn to politicians or voters she has never met for advice on mammograms, prenatal care, and cancer treatments; and she shouldn't. The motives behind this bill are clear, to shame and judge women and erode access to abortion. These efforts heartlessly disregard the personal circumstances that surround a woman's decision to end her pregnancy. Unlike PPNM, which has a strong tradition of respecting women and their decisions, the out-of-touch groups behind this ballot measure don't care about women's health or safety; their only goal is to make it impossible for women to access safe and legal abortions. This is a tough battle, but together with our supporters we can defeat this historic abortion ban and continue to ensure a political environment in New Mexico that is supportive of women's ability to make personal medical decisions.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Allan Drucker is intent on securing reproductive health access for women, no matter where they live.

You never forget where you were when you first heard the words "You're going to be parents!" For Allan Drucker and his wife, it was at the Planned Parenthood health center in Annapolis, MD. Since that day 35 years ago, Allan has stayed involved with Planned Parenthood.

"Planned Parenthood's work is so important; giving people access to health care and education will allow them to determine their futures. In particular the educational mission provided in many of the community's schools. This front-line prevention is key to ensuring that people can make responsible choices."

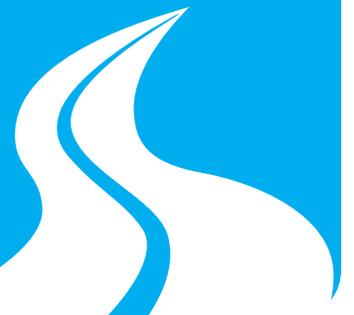
Allan is keenly aware of the plight of many women in New Mexico and the surrounding states who either cannot afford regular preventive healthcare, or must travel long distances to access that care. As Allan watched the recent events in Texas unfold, he knew he wanted to help the women there who lost access to the majority of community health centers as a result of strict and unnecessary legislation. Unfortunately, for many of these women, driving to our New Mexico health centers is now actually closer than the remaining options in Texas. Allan's concern led him to make a generous donation to ease the burden of this extra travel. He believes all women deserve care regardless of age, income, or their governor's political agenda.

Allan also supports Planned Parenthood's advocacy work. He says it is striking to see the disconnect between the support of the general public and the lack of support by many of our elected officials. With the continued onslaught of pending legislation to limit women's health care choices, it is more important than ever to Allan that he and his wife, Kayce, support Planned Parenthood now and in the future. Allan never forgot that Planned Parenthood was there for him at one of the most significant moments of his life. If you had a similar experience, he encourages you to support Planned Parenthood in whatever capacity you are able.

PROMOTORES DE SALUD, IMPACTING LIVES

PPSN's Promotores de Salud program is committed to serving the Latino/a community of southern Nevada by offering comprehensive reproductive health care education and services. At the heart of PPSN's Promotores de Salud program are our promotores, sometimes called "lay health advisors" or "community health workers." These carefully chosen community members are trained in sexual health resources and provide individual and group education sessions, called platicas, in their own communities, primarily in Spanish. This critical service allows southern Nevada's growing Latino/a population to access culturally competent, quality preventative health care. This year, through a generous grant from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Promotores de Salud program was able to incorporate breast health information and education into our existing menu of platicas. Prior to receiving this grant, the Promotores de Salud program provided breast health information in partnership with the Mexican Consulate and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure affiliate in Las Vegas. These partnerships provided critical knowledge and space to educate our community, but restricted us to larger groups and spaces, such as churches and schools. Since completing the training, our promotores are now also able to provide the breast health platicas to smaller groups that frequently meet in individual homes or apartments. Our work with the Las Vegas Latino/a community is a critical part of the solution to help this group overcome the many barriers that prevent Latinos/as from obtaining preventative medical care.

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada was chosen by Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) as a beneficiary of their Black and White Party on August 24. AFAN honored PPSN with a \$1,000 gift in recognition of the work our health centers do to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through our education and testing programs. Members of our Responsible Sex Education Institute had a table at the event to share information about PPSN services and encourage guests to tell their networks about the health care we provide. We believe that strong partnerships make us a stronger agency and are grateful for the support of AFAN in our fight against HIV/AIDS.



...AND INTRODUCING *Cuidate*

The success of the Promotores de Salud model, which serves adults, resulted in participants requesting a similar program for their children. In response, PPSN began offering the Cuidate program in April 2013 to Latina girls ages 13–18. Cuidate is a culturally based curriculum designed to reduce sexual risk behavior that can lead to teen pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections and is currently funded through the State of Nevada under the PREP grant (Personal Responsibility and Education Program). This program is similar to Promotores de Salud in that it teaches sessions to youth in homes, apartments and other community settings. And the community has enthusiastically embraced Cuidate. The initial goal for the first year of the program was to reach 100 girls; a goal which was already surpassed in the first five months! The grant initially mandated that the program be offered solely to girls, however parents soon began requesting the same programming for their sons. Once again, PPSN responded to community need by requesting, and receiving, a grant amendment from the State of Nevada and now offers the program to both girls and boys. A recent site visit by PREP managers gave PPSN staff the opportunity to highlight the successes of Cuidate and strong collaborations with our own Promotores de Salud program, as well as other community agencies including the Mexican Consulate, Ventanillas de Salud, the Southern Nevada Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition and Bilingual Behavioral Services.



Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

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Our *Dialogue* newsletter is now available via email. If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to info.development@pprm.org

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is proud to recognize the Impact Society, a unique group of friends whose dedication to PPRM is distinct and whose generosity is remarkable.

Thank you to our Fiscal Year 2013 Impact Society members whose meaningful support makes a significant difference to our patients, education programs, and in our advocacy work.

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