Welcome to the May edition of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas’ monthly newsletter. As a valued supporter, we would like to share the latest updates on the work you make possible at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.

**TAKE ACTION: MAKE A PLAN AND VOTE!**

Did you know that there’s two upcoming elections and your vote matters?

**Local Elections and Special Constitutional Amendment Elections - May 7**
- April 25 to May 3 - Early voting
- Texas Primary Runoff Election - May 24
- May 16 to May 20 - Early voting

**BIRTH CONTROL JUST GOT EASIER**

Texans: Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas is reducing barriers to birth control.

With the Planned Parenthood Direct app, you can use your phone to get birth control, treatment for a UTI, and easy appointment scheduling at your local health center.

**A NEWS CONNECTION**

Many of us were alarmed to learn that a Texan named Lizelle Herrera was arrested in Starr County recently and charged with murder for a “self-induced abortion.” Lizelle was arrested and detained in Starr County in the Rio Grande Valley. Her arrest follows Texas enacting one of the most extreme abortion bans in the U.S. Following an outcry, Lizelle was released and the charges dismissed.

“While the charges against Lizelle have been dismissed, we know the fight against the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes has only just begun,” said Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood’s president and CEO.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER TEXAS’ EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Teens whose parents talk with them about sex, birth control, preventing STDs, and pregnancy are more likely to wait to have sex, use birth control when they do have sex, and avoid an unintended pregnancy. Some parents think that having conversations about sex could encourage their teen to have sex. Actually, the opposite is true. Studies show that teens who have conversations with their parents are more likely to delay having sex and use birth control and condoms when they do. This isn’t just “the talk” but a lifelong conversation about healthy relationships and decision-making.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provides age-appropriate, medically accurate sexual health education, in person and online, to more than 10,000 teens and parents annually.

Our community health education programs use a three-part approach that engages adults, educators, and peers. These workshops provide the skills and support Texans need to make well-informed decisions about their relationships and sexual health. Thanks to the generous support provided by donors like you, Planned Parenthood’s community health education programs are offered at no cost as a community service.

**SPECIAL FILM SCREENING FOR PLAN B!**

We are excited to present a film screening of the movie Plan B on May 5, 2022. Before the film, former Texas State Senator Wendy Davis will make a cameo appearance and present a preview of a new documentary. After the film, Plan B’s co-star Victoria Moroles will engage in a facilitated Talk Back with UT President of Students for Planned Parenthood. Plus, guests can enjoy a DJ, cash bar, snacks, and more surprises!
May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
Young people deserve inclusive, evidence-based sex education. Yet, almost half of teens in the U.S. do not receive any information about birth control until after they have sex for the first time.

In Texas every year, about 35,000 teens become pregnant before they turn 20. Texas has the 5th highest teen pregnancy rate and #1 rate of repeat teen pregnancy in the nation.

90% of participants increased their knowledge of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention after attending a Planned Parenthood education event.

Our most common services provided are:
- Birth control to help Texans plan and space their pregnancies.
- Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and PrEP and PEP.
- Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

WAYS TO GIVE
Would you like to continue supporting high-quality healthcare services and sex education programs for generations to come? Contact Shawn Wills, Chief Development Officer, at (214) 363-3505 or shawn.wills@ppgt.org if you want to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood can ensure your commitment to high-quality care for all continues.

Your gift of:
- $1,000 empowers 5 teens with honest, accurate sex education
- $500 prevents unintended pregnancies for a patient with over a year of birth control
- $205 conducts 5 teen council meetings to support peer educator training and leadership
- $110 implements 2 health education sessions for middle school students

If you have a question or if you want to learn more, please contact the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or email us at development@ppgt.org.