

Your Partner for a Healthy Community

Quarterly Newsletter April - May - June 2020 **Special COVID-19 Update**



In my 15 years at Planned Parenthood, the COVID-19 pandemic is creating some of the most significant challenges we have faced as a healthcare provider.

Fortunately, patients can continue to count on us for time-sensitive healthcare appointments, including sexually transmitted infection screenings and treatment, birth control, breast mass exams, PrEP/PEP HIV prevention, and other services.

Unfortunately, the Texas Governor and Attorney General have used the public health pandemic to advance their goals of **banning abortions in Texas**. Their ban on abortions does not protect public health and puts our patients at risk to travel

outside of Texas to access a medication or surgical abortion. We filed a lawsuit to overturn the ban on abortions in Texas, and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that safe, legal abortion services remain accessible in Texas at our health centers.

Your support is more important than ever---thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood's patients during this challenging time.

*With Gratitude,
Ken*

Ken Lambrecht,
President & CEO

WE'RE HERE WITH YOU

Time-sensitive sexual healthcare needs do not stop during a pandemic. We are committed to the safety and health of our patients and staff. We are here for patients who need that care at our health centers in Austin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Paris, Plano, Tyler, Waco, and surrounding communities. Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' Health Task Force monitors updates from the WHO, CDC, and other experts to update our health center guidelines regularly. **Learn more about healthcare available at Planned Parenthood Greater Texas health centers at: ppgreatertx.org/COVID19.**



TELEMEDICINE HEALTHCARE AT HOME

"I'm lucky a friend posted about Planned Parenthood Direct right at the time when I was struggling to figure out where I could get birth control pills."

- Planned Parenthood Direct Patient

With social distancing and shelter-in-place guidelines, Planned Parenthood's telemedicine app, **Planned Parenthood Direct**, is a trusted resource now more important than ever. Planned Parenthood Direct offers birth control (pills, patch, ring methods) and treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs) for patients 18 or up. Prescriptions can be delivered at home or a nearby pharmacy depending on the health service. Learn more at PlannedParenthoodDirect.org and check back for additional services being added soon.

SAVE THE DATE

We are carefully monitoring the latest guidance on public events to ensure the safety of our guests.

Annual Austin Dinner

September 26
Hyatt Regency Austin

An Evening with Planned Parenthood - Fort Worth 2020

Rescheduled for October 28th!
Bass Concert Hall

Waco Margarita Madness

Rescheduled for this fall.
Date TBA

Advance reservations required and sponsorships available for events. Email events@ppgt.org for more info.

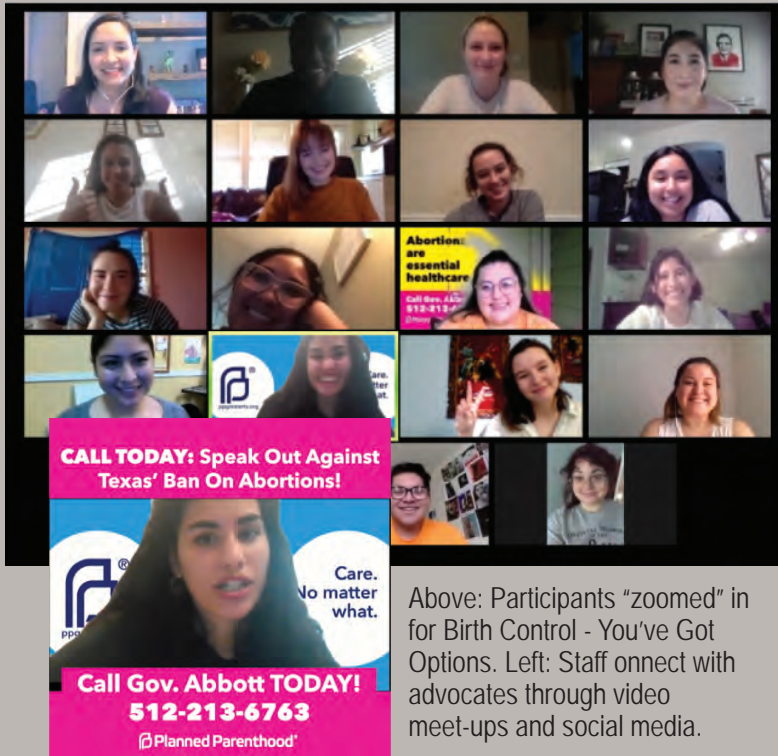


Former state senator Wendy Davis and former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk at the Dallas Luncheon on March 6th. More coverage at papercitymag.com.

We are grateful that supporters were able to turn out for the **30th Annual Dallas Awards Luncheon** in early March. Co-chaired by **Kara Goss** and **Jennifer Karol** and featuring Keynote speaker, **Soledad O'Brien**, the event raised more than \$1.3 million for our mission and honored **Suzanne Perot McGee** and **Cynthia Wallace**.

YOUR **VIRTUAL** PARTNER FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Making a healthier Texas by connecting with communities in central, east, north and west Texas.



Above: Participants "zoomed" in for Birth Control - You've Got Options. Left: Staff connect with advocates through video meet-ups and social media.

Our community outreach programs offer education and advocacy opportunities for supporters in the communities we serve, and that has not stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas now offers a calendar of virtual programming such as Birth Control - You've Got Options, book clubs, sex ed workshops, happy hours, and teach-ins on the 2020 Census, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion access, and more. Participants from Birth Control - You've Got Options said, **"Thank you for answering all my questions, and keeping the conversation open,"** and **"Very informative and felt like a safe zone."**

Ongoing advocacy opportunities to respond to breaking news, such as Governor Abbott's ban on abortions, also continue online. Supporters have been invited to phone bank, write letters of support, and other calls to action.

Learn more and register for virtual programming and advocacy by visiting our [Facebook events page @ppgreaterx](#).

Thank you for standing with your patients always, but especially right now.

Eryn, Austin

While I stay at home isolating from the rest of the world to protect myself and others, you don't have that option. Thank you for going to work everyday. We are behind you and support you.

Megan, El Paso

You are true heroes!

Mike, Waco

I was once a patient at PP and will never forget the kindness shown to me from every staff member! The work you continue to do everyday is so important and life changing!

Jennifer, Dallas

You fight the good fight and your work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Allison, Grapevine

Know you are appreciated in so many ways. Thank you from the Waco community.

Debra, Waco

You are courageous and dedicated

Gilbert, Schertz

Health care will *never* stop being about the patient - thank you for keeping your focus in the right place.

Kari, Attleboro

HEALTH EDUCATION GOES VIRTUAL

With students now schooling from home due to COVID-19, sex education and health resources remain essential to support the health of Texas teens. Planned Parenthood health educators are now available throughout PPGT communities online instead of in-person.



"Thank you so much for the excellent info. You helped me greatly."

- El Paso Chat Client

Seven days a week, young people can chat/text with trained health educators by texting **PPNOW** to **774-636**, or online at plannedparenthood.org/online-tools/chat.

Parents can access health education resources through Zoom webinars on "How to be an Askable Adult" and other workshops to help adults take advantage of teachable moments with science-based age appropriate information to provide the health information their teens need.

To learn more about or register for virtual education programs coming soon, visit our [Facebook events page @ppgreatertx](#)

IN YOUR WORDS

Hundreds have reached out to offer support for our dedicated health center staff during this challenging time.

[Click here to see your words in action!](#)