

Weathering the Storm—Together

You only need to glance at front-page headlines to know this has been an extraordinarily difficult year for Planned Parenthood. Attacks from many directions have conspired to shut us down, leaving our patients with nowhere to turn. The latest one happened in the early morning hours of May 25 when a fire was reported at PPMM's Modesto site, which temporarily closed the health center.

Yet, through it all, we have been bolstered by a very powerful ally: *You*.

You have been with us throughout the clamor in Congress to defund Planned Parenthood when a majority of right-wing extremists took over the House of Representatives and, later, the Senate. At the beginning of this year, Congress voted for the *eighth time* to defund us, and only the President's veto stopped this bill from becoming law.

You have stood with us while five separate Congressional "investigations" were launched in response to an online smear-video campaign perpetrated by anti-abortion rights zealots that falsely accused Planned Parenthood of "selling baby body parts." More than a dozen states already have closed their own investigations of Planned Parenthood in response to the deceptively edited videos, after finding nothing illegal or unethical. California declined to open one.

Though the smear campaign has been resoundingly discredited and PPMM has joined a major lawsuit to hold those behind it accountable, its outrageous accusations have been used as further justification by *two dozen* state legislatures to cut or attempt to cut funding for Planned Parenthood. Meanwhile, there has been a nine-fold increase of threats and violence against health centers all over the country, death threats to some staff members, five incidents of arson in less than three months — including the recent fire at our Modesto health center — and the horrific

Thanksgiving-weekend shooting in Colorado Springs that left three dead.

During the siege, our donors have stood stalwartly by us, supporting the care our patients rely on. The evidence is everywhere we look: There was the donor who walked into one of our sites with a check for thousands of dollars the day after the first fraudulent video was released online. Many others sent donations and encouraging messages to our staff in the wake of the video attack.

Dozens volunteered to spearhead fundraising efforts, such as the Roe anniversary celebration in Monterey that raised twice as much as the year before and the March Peninsula Breakfast, which inspired a record \$700,000. The success of these events was a powerful rejoinder to those who are trying to shut us down.



Supporters like you keep our doors open and our services available!

We are also encouraged by the dedicated group of supporters who send in donations every time an attack on Planned Parenthood makes national headlines (along with the donations they have been generously making to PPMM for years).

In these tough times, your commitment has never wavered, and your support of the essential services we provide has never been stronger and clearer. Our patients are very grateful to you — and so are we.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from Linda
- Supporting PPMM
- From Mar to Monte: Affiliate Highlights
- Pros & Cons: Notable Quotes

Letter From Linda Williams



Welcome to our new donor newsletter which we hope you will find informative, lively and occasionally surprising.

We have certainly experienced our share of tumultuous events over the past year, from multiple efforts to defund Planned Parenthood to an onslaught of fraudulently obtained and deceptively edited videos, crippling cyber-attacks, significantly more frequent and aggressive protests at our health centers — and, most recently, the arson at PPMM's Modesto health center on May 25.

You have responded with inspiring messages about what Planned Parenthood has meant to you, cards and treats for beleaguered staff, hours of volunteer service in many capacities and increased financial support.

In these pages, you will see some of the unique ways that supporters have used their talents and creative thinking

to assist us, including a local rock-band benefit and cashing in leftover Flexible Spending Account funds to help our patients.

You'll notice the addition of a brain-teaser, "Do you know?" which will test your knowledge of our services. Another new feature, *From Mar to Monte*, is a quick snapshot of services and activities around our affiliate. In *Pros and Cons*, we have picked some notable and notorious quotes to share with you from our own service area and around the country.

As we head into an unprecedented election season, we are confident that, strengthened by your sustained support, we will provide the health care and education our patients rely on, whatever the outcome.

With appreciation,

Linda Williams
President and CEO

From Mar to Monte

NEWS FROM AROUND THE AFFILIATE



Stockton, Fresno, Gilroy, N. Highlands, Salinas and San Jose: Our prenatal practices see hundreds of women each month, providing a smooth transition to nearby hospitals where they give birth.

Blossom Hill, Mountain View and Watsonville: The first three PPMM sites to receive national certification as "patient-centered medical homes," these health centers are enhancing family medicine services by focusing on provider-coordination for each patient's care. More people in these communities have discovered that this is a place where the entire family can go for one-stop treatment.

Fresno, Reno, Sacramento and Santa Cruz: Recent laws to restrict transgender people in public bathrooms have highlighted grave cultural misunderstandings about the transgender community, issues that PPMM staff addresses with the 85 patients they currently see each month at our transgender clinics. Our acclaimed program helps patients receive services and support, and we are proud to be setting the standard of excellent community health care for transgender people.

Northern Nevada: Over 100 supporters gathered in Reno for the annual Derby Day event, hosted at a private home. Everyone cheered for the Kentucky Derby-winning colt, Nyquist, while sipping juleps, wearing fabulous hats and raising more than \$11,000 for PPMM services in Northern Nevada!



PPMM's head of Development Patricia Williams joins the fun

Did You Know?

Fill in the blank: Planned Parenthood Mar Monte offers ___ forms of FDA-approved birth control. (See page 4 for the answer.)

A. 5 B. 7 C. 15 D. 100

Supporting Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

A TRIBUTE TO OUR CREATIVE DONORS

No doubt about it, we love our donors! Not only are they dedicated and generous, they are innovative as well. Many tap their own talents to donate in a way that's outside the box. Here are a couple of inspiring examples.



Evonne Goolagong performing in Berkeley, from left: Jillian Banks-Kong, Michael Russell and Becky Shea.

Rockin' for PPMM

When we received a call from East Bay rock band, *Evonne Goolagong* (named for Australia's world tennis champ) we were immediately enthusiastic. Band members Becky Shea, Jillian Banks-Kong and Michael Russell wanted to celebrate PPMM's top-quality health care and have a home-grown rock concert for us in Berkeley.

As Becky put it: "I knew that we wanted to support the services of Planned Parenthood in our area. Mixing our passions, women's reproductive rights and music, was a no-brainer for me and the band. Everyone was excited to participate and rally around the cause!"

The event was a blast, raising more than \$1,500 for PPMM. The band even tossed a "golden condom," wrapped in gilded foil, from the stage, and the lucky condom-catcher won a *Goolagong* CD.

You can learn more about the band and listen to their music here:

www.reverbnation.com/EvonneGoolagong

And, Speaking of Condoms...

When it comes to health coverage plans, a lot of us face a small dilemma each year about how we're going to use the FSA (flexible spending account) money we still haven't spent. If you don't use it, you lose it. But one of our donors, Derek Perez, came up with an ingenious FSA spending plan that involved PPMM - and condoms.

Derek, who works in Silicon Valley tech and drives by his local health center every day, got an idea after hearing about the constant attacks on Planned Parenthood. He wondered if he could use his leftover FSA money to buy 2,000 condoms for our patients.



We loved his great plan for an in-kind gift! PPMM distributes almost five million condoms each year throughout the affiliate, and supplying free condoms to the community is part of our mission to empower our patients to take control of their reproductive health.

But Derek isn't stopping there: "Next year, I want to organize more of my colleagues to use their FSA balance for condoms or other items for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte!"

Learn more about in-kind giving:
ppmarmonte.org/in-kind-giving



Pros & Cons

NOTABLE QUOTES FROM CALIFORNIA AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



Pro

"I have a right to this information! Sexual health is more than just sex. It's about understanding and taking care of your body and being prepared for a healthy future."— *A high school sophomore during Omaha, Nebraska's public meeting on plans to update their sex education curriculum.*



Con

"We are declaring war on Planned Parenthood. We are soldiers or warriors that employ irregular military tactics ... harassing, pursuing and sabotaging Planned Parenthood's evil plans at every turn." — *Jeff White, former Operation Rescue leader*



Con

"[Harris is a] puppet of the baby killers...using every weapon at her disposal to silence the pro-life movement — even if it means kicking down our doors and raiding our homes." — *Troy Newman of Operation Rescue, referring to CA Attorney General Kamala Harris after David Daleiden's home was raided CA justice department as part of the ongoing criminal investigation.*



Pro

"In my opinion, the battles over birth control and Planned Parenthood are primarily neither political nor religious. This is an issue of equality for women. This is an issue of women's rights: Planned Parenthood is the most important private provider of reproductive health care for women in the United States." — *Karen DeCrow, activist, former NOW president*

Get involved!

DONATE

You can make a donation today to support PPMM's mission: ppmarmonte.org/donate-now

PLAN

You can help ensure a bright future for PPMM via legacy giving: ppmarmonte.org/legacy

ACT

Get involved locally: ppmarmonte.org/act

CONNECT

Sign up to receive email alerts and information: ppmarmonte.org/email-signup

VISIT

Make an appointment at one of our 34 health centers or refer a friend or family member: ppmarmonte.org/visit

VOLUNTEER

Join hundreds of volunteers across PPMM who support our mission daily: ppmarmonte.org/volunteer

Follow us on Social Media:



twitter.com/ppmarmonte



fb.com/plannedparenthoodmm



instagram.com/ppmarmonte



youtube.com/PlannedParenthoodMM

Did You Know?

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte offers 15 forms of FDA-approved birth control including IUD, vasectomy, female sterilization, implants, Depo Provera® shot, the patch, vaginal ring, birth control pills, diaphragm, sponge, cervical cap, spermicide, male condom, female condom and natural family planning. For more information about each method as well as other reproductive health services, visit us at www.ppmarmonte.org/services

To receive future editions of PPMM Caring Connection in a digital format, sign up at ppmarmonte.org/newsletter

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