

A close-up profile of a Black woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a large hoop earring. The image is overlaid with large, white, hollow-outlined text that reads "WE'RE HERE WITH YOU".

WE'RE
HERE
WITH
YOU

COVID-19 • BLACK LIVES MATTER

Letter From PPMM CEO Stacy Cross

Dear Friend,

As our nation faces the collective trauma of a health pandemic, police brutality against black people, and a militarized response on our city streets, I want to acknowledge the agony being experienced in black communities. After 400 years of struggle for equality, progress has moved far too slowly.



But I have been inspired by so many who have recommitted to making lasting, systemic change. I've also been encouraged that many of those of us who aren't black are challenging ourselves to confront our own racial bias as well as anti-blackness in our communities and institutions.

PPMM's staff has responded to the murder of George Floyd with caring accountability for one another and addressing our own implicit biases so that we can improve our delivery of health care and education for all people.

In this newsletter, you'll read about new services we're providing to meet this moment for our patients, especially as COVID-19 disproportionately ravages the health and economic stability of communities of color. You'll also learn about our innovative COVID-testing partnerships with California public officials in three counties.

When you read our COVID Care Stories on pages 14-15, you'll be reminded of why the people behind these stories, our patients, are the reason we're so passionate about the work we do – and the reason you support Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.

I hope you'll also join me this June as we mark Pride Month. Let's remember why we celebrate. Stonewall was an anti-police uprising – and the first brick thrown was by Marsha P. Johnson, a black trans revolutionary. It's even more important now to honor her legacy by speaking out and fighting to keep all members of our communities safe.

With perseverance,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy".

Stacy Cross
PPMM President and CEO

Expanding services to meet the moment

Surmounting this challenge together



Your steadfast support of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte means you're playing a crucial role in providing reproductive health care to people who can't go without it. That support has taken on new meaning during this pandemic when you have enabled us to rapidly change how we care for patients, making us an even more vital part of the community safety net.

In a matter of weeks, your support helped us move many of our patients' health center visits to telephone and video appointments so they could safely shelter in place while receiving care. We also launched curbside pickup of birth control and emergency contraception at all of our health centers, and we became one of only three Planned Parenthood affiliates to provide COVID-19 testing at many of our sites. Through it all, we've continued to provide in-person visits for minimal-touch abortion care, long-acting reversible contraceptives (like IUDs), and STI treatments.

We're especially proud of our work with California county and municipal officials who requested that we partner with them to open drive-through COVID-19 testing centers for first-responders and members of the community. Our first public testing center in San Joaquin County's city of Tracy was launched with municipal officials and Tracy Unified School District, where the site was set up in a school parking lot.



Most recently, we've opened drive-through testing sites in Monterey and Mountain View, also at the invitation of public officials. In the first few weeks, hundreds of people were tested at all three sites, and staff heard from many patients who were so glad we were there for them.

"We are grateful for this successful collaboration with our community partners to help meet the urgent need for COVID-19 testing," said PPMM's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Laura Dalton. "We are committed to being part of the solution and proud to continue serving the community in every way we can."

Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams said the new testing site is an important step to keeping the community safe from the spread of the virus.

"Planned Parenthood was there for Monterey County when we, and our residents, need them most," Adams said. "The COVID-19 testing site they have been operating on the Monterey Peninsula is a critical component of our community's ability to safely re-open and re-build people's lives." ■



COVID-19 Testing Sites

Health Center

Remote Site

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The past few weeks have been relentlessly horrifying. On May 25, George Floyd was held to the ground by a Minneapolis police officer while he gasped, "I can't breathe," eerily harkening back to Eric Garner's same words nearly six years ago when he was murdered in a chokehold applied by a NYPD officer.

Mr. Floyd joins a litany of black people who have been the victims of systemic violence and death because of racist systems and communities. Steven Taylor. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. Ahmaud Arbery. Philando Castile. Alton Sterling. Sandra Bland. Walter Scott. Tanisha Anderson. Tamir Rice. Mike Brown. Renisha McBride. Trayvon Martin. Oscar Grant. Heartbreakingly, the recitation could go on, documenting centuries of anti-black violence.

Enough.

I want to acknowledge the pain, anxiety, and stress that black, brown, and other communities of color are feeling. I also want to recognize that many are experiencing compounding trauma. Because of the work we do, we are acutely aware of the inequities in health care access, treatment, and outcomes for black, indigenous, and people of color.

Dismantling structural racism requires systemic transformation of institutions: policing and justice systems, education, employment, housing, media, economic mobility, health care, and more. But racism isn't just "out there" in these systems, it is taught and reinforced. And we must make deliberate, personal commitments to listen to black voices, to commit to dismantling white supremacy, doing long-term work to educate and hold each other accountable, and to have uncomfortable conversations that move us closer to more authentic and deep partnerships to fight for racial justice.

It is time for reproductive rights and health advocates like us to take a stand and work to dismantle systems of white supremacy and anti-blackness. We need to speak out for every individual's right to live privately with bodily autonomy, free from violence and systemic injustices.

To our black patients, colleagues, supporters, donors, and friends: please remember that even though we are social distancing, you are not alone. You matter. Your personhood, bodily autonomy, and wellness matters. Go to ppmarmonte.org/anti-racism where you'll find a link to 7 virtual mental health resources supporting black people right now.

At ppmarmonte.org/anti-racism I've also shared a list of anti-racism resources that I've found very helpful. It includes a curated collection of articles to help educate yourself and help make a difference in this fight. For individuals with children at home, you'll find some tools to help talk to children about race and racism. And, if you'd like to take action, please follow and support the Movement for Black Lives at m4bl.org to learn more about what you can do right now.

With a heavy heart and the resolve to keep fighting,

Stacy Cross in Partnership with the PPMM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

LEARN MORE

- The Obama Foundation: A comprehensive list of resources to get informed, take action, get engaged, and stand together is at obama.org/anguish-and-action
- If you're white and want to fight for racial justice, check out the information in our Resources for White People list at ppmarmonte.org/anti-racism
- Watch **13th** (Netflix, 2016), an incredible documentary by Ava Duvernay that explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass-incarceration in the U.S.
- Read two New York Times bestsellers: ***How to be an Antiracist*** by Ibram X. Kendi, and ***So You Want to Talk About Race***, by Ijeoma Oluo

THE STATE OF THE AFFILIATE

SCOTUS 2020



DAHLIA LITHWICK



KIMBERLY ELLIS



STACY CROSS

What will abortion care look like after the *June v. Russo* SCOTUS decision?

Please join Planned Parenthood Mar Monte President & CEO Stacy Cross, California strategist Kimberly Ellis, and keynote speaker, Dahlia Lithwick, award-winning journalist and Supreme Court expert, for an engaging virtual conversation.

Thursday, June 18 @ 2:00 - 3:00pm
RSVP at ppmarmonte.org/SOTA

This month, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide *June Medical Services v. Russo*, an abortion case from Louisiana. If the Court affirms the 5th Circuit's ruling from the Louisiana case, it has the potential to weaken or even overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If this happens, obtaining an abortion will be virtually impossible in at least 18 states, directly affecting more than 25 million women of reproductive age. Women of color already experience extreme disparities in access and care and will be disproportionately impacted by the SCOTUS ruling.

Join Planned Parenthood Mar Monte for this important virtual conversation and learn what impact *June v. Russo* will have for health care-access in California and Nevada.

Can't make it? All State of the Affiliate webinars are recorded for our supporters; visit ppmarmonte.org/SOTA for more information.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Dahlia Lithwick is a contributing editor at Newsweek and senior editor at Slate. She writes the "Supreme Court Dispatches" and "Jurisprudence" columns, and hosts the biweekly podcast *Amicus*.

Moderator **Kimberly Ellis** is a nationally recognized progressive leader who has been credited with revolutionizing politics in California. Called the "most powerful unelected person in California Democratic politics," Ellis served as executive director of Emerge California, training hundreds of women to run for elected office.

Stacy Cross is a 19-year veteran of Planned Parenthood. Cross served as CEO at Planned Parenthoods in Montana and the Columbia Willamette region of Oregon and Washington states. She currently serves as board director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

RSVP to save your seat here:
ppmarmonte.org/SOTA

This webinar is free but a suggested donation of \$100 is welcome and will support PPMM's ability to host future virtual events.

Head of Strategic Communications

Andrew Adams

on social justice – and looming Supreme Court rulings



Andrew with AVP of Education Courtney Macavinta

Chief of Staff & Head of Strategic Communications Andrew Adams came to PPMM in 2019 with an impressive background in advocacy and strategic planning, including nearly five years at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in New York and a stint at the U.N. office of Plan International, a development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. He also earned a law degree along the way.

While at Plan, Andrew developed a project for pre-teen and teenage girls from around the world to appear at the U.N., speaking about their sexual health and education rights, and ending gender-based violence. We caught up with Andrew to get his perspective on legal battles currently facing Planned Parenthood.

PPMM: What is something new you learned during your work in the legal advocacy community about the effect of U.S. Supreme Court rulings?

Andrew Adams: Reading Supreme Court opinions, rather than relying upon news articles about the decisions, shows that Justices often decide cases on technical issues and a very specific reading of the law. There's often a real disconnect between how a case is argued, legally, and the impact the decision has on entire communities of people.

PPMM: If the Supreme Court overturns or guts the 1973 *Roe* decision when it rules on the pending Louisiana abortion case, *June Medical Services v. Russo*, what do you think will be the most immediate impact?

Andrew: I'm concerned for all women, but especially lower-income and women of color in the South and Midwest who will lose access to abortion care. It may be easier and less expensive to catch a flight to get the care they need in California rather than risk driving hundreds or even thousands of miles from their homes, only to face the burden of TRAP laws in surrounding states where abortion may remain tacitly legal.

PPMM: If the Supreme Court allows employers to deny their employees contraception-coverage based on religious beliefs or “moral grounds,” what do you think will be most harmed?

Andrew: Employees at companies exempted from the so-called birth control mandate in the Affordable Care Act would be profoundly affected by being denied contraception-coverage. But the biggest injustice would be the further erosion of democratic norms that continues to happen before our eyes. What does it say when an employer can prevent women from obtaining safe and legal medication?

PPMM: Since you’ve been at PPMM, are there aspects of reproductive rights that you think about differently?

Andrew: As a queer man, I was already familiar with PPMM’s services like STI-testing and treatment – especially the HIV-prevention medications PEP and PrEP, which is liberating because it allows people to be protected and in control. Working at PPMM, I’ve made the connection between the feeling of freedom I have with PrEP and the added dimension of control people feel over their personal lives because of effective contraceptives like the path, pill, and LARCs like IUDs and implants. I’m so proud to work for an organization that enables people the freedom to plan their families and their futures. ■



Did you know?

More than 200 supporters have created their will for free, using our partnership with FreeWill – and many have shared what a help it’s been.

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte has partnered with FreeWill to provide you with a will-writing tool that is simple and completely free to use.

We know that it may seem unsettling or complicated to write a will, but it is the best way to protect what matters to you most.

“Thank you SO much! I can’t afford to donate anything to you much less leave you anything in my will. I’ve been wanting to write a will but can’t afford a lawyer. I really appreciate this and hope you are all doing OK.”
– Kristin, a PPMM supporter

For more information, please visit ppmarmonte.org/legacy.

The program is 100% free for you whether or not you include a gift to PPMM. It’s fast and easy.

Questions?

Please contact legacy@ppmarmonte.org or 916-325-1705.



COVID Care STORIES

Since early March, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte has been on the leading edge of community health care response to COVID-19. We immediately began shifting the way we provide care as shelter-in-place orders were enacted across the areas we serve - everywhere from Monterey to Reno.

Our frontline staff in health centers have had some remarkable experiences caring for patients during this pandemic. Here are just a couple, with more to be found at ppmarmonte.org/blog:

Wei-Wei C.



Health Services Specialist Wei-Wei C. knows it's not easy for patients to have a video telehealth appointment for the first time. They are relieved that they can continue to shelter in place while getting care, but they are still becoming accustomed to "screen life."

"I completely understand that people are shy to just jump on telehealth," Wei-Wei said. "I'll walk them through the process, and this helps me have a better understanding of the patient experience. When they come onscreen for the first time, we're both excited. I've had people say, 'It's nice to see your face!' - even though I'm wearing a mask."

Recently, Wei-Wei spoke with a patient who has a history of medical conditions that make it difficult to leave home, so a telehealth appointment was a great alternative. "There were a lot of pets in the background onscreen, and we talked about that," she said. "We were able to connect in a way we normally wouldn't have over the phone - or even in person."

"Telehealth is another way we can further build that trust with patients. Especially during this time when people really need reassurance, it means so much to be able to virtually come in to their homes and care for them in that sacred space."

Jessica D.

The young patient was finishing her last semester at Fresno State, via remote classes during social distancing, when she discovered she was pregnant. This was not part of her plan. She came in to see Clinician Jessica D. for a medication abortion at one of our Fresno health centers even though she was suffering from acute anxiety about being exposed to COVID-19 if she left her house.



Jessica had travelled to the site from our Watsonville health center because the patient needed help immediately. She needed a health care provider who understood. The young woman came in to the health center wearing gloves, afraid of any exposure to germs but feeling determined about the future she was charting for herself. It did not include motherhood. Not right now.

"Abortion is a really essential service, and we are specialists," Jessica said. "Having an abortion is often a life-changing moment. This patient told me about big plans she has in the fall to enter a PhD program in astrophysics, in another city. She has worked hard to get to where she is now."

"She was very glad that Planned Parenthood was there for her, especially at this time. She said how grateful she was for this abortion care that would allow her to continue to pursue her dreams and academic goals."

"For me, hopes and dreams are behind every abortion story - even more so now."

Read more COVID Care Stories at
ppmarmonte.org/blog



From Mar to Monte

NEWS FROM AROUND
THE AFFILIATE



You stepped up when we asked for cloth face coverings

More than a month into the pandemic, it became clear that our staff needed cloth face coverings to wear before they donned medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE) inside health centers. And our patients needed them as well. So we asked for your help to make and donate cloth face coverings – and the response was nothing short of inspirational.

Within only a few days, we received commitments for more than 4,000!

They've already begun arriving, and it feels great to distribute the colorful, cheerful cloth face-coverings that will help to keep our patients and staff safe at health centers in California and Nevada.

Would you like to help us reach our goal of 10,000 cloth face coverings? Check out the link at ppmarmonte.org/fc

Getting counted for the community



When the Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Public Affairs team started planning for 2020 Census community outreach, social distancing wasn't part of their strategy.

But the Census is extremely important because it determines where billions of dollars in federal money is spent – so the Public Affairs team quickly came up with another plan to make sure you and your neighbors have the tools to get counted.

The team is training volunteers on “remote outreach,” via screens and phone banks, to encourage and help people fill out their Census questionnaire. In our Fresno region, they joined forces with *Mi Familia Vota*, a civic engagement organization that unites Latino, immigrant, and allied communities.

The Public Affairs team also created a one-stop spot to answer your questions and help you complete your Census form: ppmarmonte.org/Census

Trivia night with the East Bay YPC

The East Bay Young Professionals Committee (YPC) held a trivia night on May 16 to benefit PPMM, in collaboration with a local supporter.

The YPC's first-ever virtual trivia night was a big success, with more than 30 teams joining the fun and raising over \$1,300.

Interested in learning more about future YPC hosted events or how to join YPC? Head to ppmarmonte.org/YPC

5 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE NOW

- Join a Movement for Black Lives virtual event and sign their petition at m4bl.org
- Support local bail funds: You can find a local bail fund or give a donation to be divided between cities across the country at bit.ly/localbailfunds
- Support the voter registration efforts of Black Voters Matter: blackvotersmatterfund.org
- Educate yourself and those around you: Non-black allies can deepen their understanding of how racism affects us all by reading anti-racism resources and having conversations with family and friends. Get information at ppmarmonte.org/anti-racism
- Help everyone, regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, age, beliefs, gender identity, or immigration status get the health care they need by giving a gift at ppmarmonte.org/donate-today



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