Planned Parenthood® The Full Mar Monte Supporters Edition



LETTER FROM THE CEO **Medication abortion under attack** nationwide: PPMM stands firm

Hello Friends,

It was wonderful to celebrate with so many of our generous donors and supporters in February at our first in-person event in almost three years. (See "Roadshow" story in the Full Mar Monte, below.) What a powerful reminder of our donor community's deep engagement with PPMM's mission!

I also want to update you on a court ruling that is expected to be issued any time now from a right-wing extremist federal judge in Texas. The decision could lead to a nationwide ban on mifepristone, one of the drugs in a two-drug regimen, including misoprostol, that's used in 98% of medication abortions in the U.S. This legal challenge represents the latest salvo of concerted attacks on abortion rights since Roe was overturned last year.

The case involves a lawsuit filed by anti-abortion groups against the Food and Drug Administration, claiming that the FDA did not apply rigorous standards when it first approved mifepristone 22 years ago and that it is not safe. This is patently false.

Here are the facts:

Medication abortions using mifepristone and misoprostol account for more than half of abortions performed in the U.S. At PPMM, in FY22, 76% of abortions we provided to patients were medication abortions using mifepristone and misoprostol. Abortion care using mifepristone and misoprostol are 94-99% effective, and many studies have presented overwhelming evidence of its safety. In fact, the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have filed a brief in the Texas case, reiterating the safety of mifepristone.

However, the plaintiffs deliberately filed the case in the Amarillo division of the Northern District of Texas so they would be certain to have it be heard in front of Trump-appointed judge, Matthew Kacsmaryk. Judge Kacsmaryk has made shockingly inaccurate and hostile claims about the LGBTQ community that have echoed those of religious extremists, and he has even said it's an open question whether states can ban birth control. (For more about this judge, see the link to a recent Washington Post story in Good Reads at the end of the Full Mar Monte.)

Under normal circumstances, this case is so weak that it would likely be thrown out of court. But, as you know, we haven't been living in "normal circumstances" for quite some time. If Judge Kacsmaryk finds in favor of the plaintiffs, as many expect him to, it could result in mifepristone being banned throughout the country, including in states that have strongly protected abortion and reproductive rights.

But even if that happens, abortion will remain legal in California and Nevada, and patients from other states will still be able to access this care in other forms, including using misoprostol alone or an in-health center abortion.

While a misopristol-only abortion is 85-95% effective, it can result in increased complications, and it is outrageous that doctors and clinicians would be unable to provide the best standard of care possible that has been proven highly safe and effective for decades. As always, Planned Parenthood will remain committed to doing whatever is needed to ensure patients can access the abortion method of their choice, with as few barriers as possible.

It is during times like this that I am especially grateful to be working with such a dedicated group of donors and funders whose support and commitment to our patients and communities is our best defense. Thank you for ensuring that the people who need us most can continue to rely on us, every day.

In Solidarity,

PPMM's Santa Cruz "Roadshow," first in-person donor gathering in three years!

"The Santa Cruz Roadshow was a great event – very well-attended by Santa Cruz County leaders and active community members. And the film was excellent. It felt like a post-COVID reunion, focused on PPMM! -Pam Connelly, PPMM board member

Nearly 150 donors and supporters gathered at the Santa Cruz Roadshow to celebrate PPMM and the return of in-person events at the first stop of our 2023 Event Series: "Together We Rise. We Resist. We Care."

The Santa Cruz Roadshow, emceed by Senior Director of Institutional Fundraising Jenni Veitch-Olson, raised more than \$88,000 through donations ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, reflecting our commitment to Community Centric Fundraising (CCF,) which is grounded in equity

and social justice.

to see you soon!

The event, attended by many Santa Cruz County community leaders, featured new videos from Patient Services, including a patient's moving story about our Gender Affirming Care program, as well as volunteer and donor testimonials. Mother-daughter duo Assemblymember Gail Pellerin and Emily Chaffin brought down the house with their call to "rise up, and fight back" for reproductive freedom for all people - even in the safe haven state of California.



PPMM's Senior Dir. of Institutional Fundraising Jenni Veitch-Olson (left) at the Santa Cruz Roadshow with Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (center) and her daughter, Emily Chaffin

Next stop on the tour is Sacramento on March 22, followed by Oakland on May 7, Monterey County on June 1, and Stockton on July 9! Tickets to your closest Roadshow, here. We hope

Innovative debut

PPMM's new artist-in-residence program

PPMM is excited to launch the affiliate's Tanuja Bahal artist-in*residence program*, another innovative approach to fulfilling our mission and serving our communities. The program named for PPMM's longtime board member and past board chair, Tanuja Bahal – has welcomed our first resident artist for the January-April 2023 cycle, Sacramento photographer and curator Sarah Marie H.

Recently, the Full Mar Monte sat down with Strategic Planning and Creative Operations Manager Alex F., who is administrating the program, to learn more about the residency and the inaugural art project.

Full Mar Monte: Alex, can you tell us a little about how art intersects with what we do here at PPMM and how this new



program can be valuable to our patients and communities?

Alex F.: Art has a way of speaking to folks and inspiring them on a deep level. When art is done well, it gives a way to see yourself and your own experiences reflected in it and starts a conversation. The more ways we can have those conversations and destigmatize the subjects, the better.

FMM: That brings us to the program's first resident artist, Sarah Marie H. Can you tell us a little about Sarah Marie and the residency project she is now working on, through April?

PPMM's first resident artist, for January - April 2023, Sacramento photographer and curator Sarah Marie H.

Alex: Sarah Marie is an amazing photographer and storyteller from Sacramento whose project, Faceless, deals with the subject of sexual violence and lets people tell their own stories of healing while remaining completely anonymous. Sarah has taken such powerful photographs. We see the storytellers' bodies, but they don't have their faces turned to the camera. These are incredibly intimate portraits of vulnerability and power, depicting how they represent themselves as survivors of sexual violence.

Sarah Marie's work in collecting these stories also ties in closely with storytelling work that PPMM is already doing. It's a different perspective on the totality of peoples' experiences.

FMM: It sounds like this project is also very timely, especially since the recent release of a harrowing national report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the mental health crisis among girls in the U.S., much of which is fueled by experiences of sexual violence. How will Sarah pursue this project during her PPMM artist residency?

Alex: She will continue gathering stories from individuals (in PPMM's service regions) and create photographs with subjects who are willing to share. This is a topic that people often turn away from, but it needs to be talked about. It's central to what we do - providing respectful, trauma-informed care, information and tools in our education programs, and advocating for legislation that addresses sexual violence. This project is another way to have a difficult discussion from a new perspective and invite more people in.

FMM: Tell us a bit more about the selection process for the resident artist.

Alex: When we first announced this program, the response was overwhelming. (The staff selection committee) got 20 applicants, from Bakersfield to Nevada, proposing really interesting projects. There was an amazing diversity of talent. We heard from poets, dancers, painters, filmmakers, sculptors. I loved reading their applications. Some are patients and employees!

We will also be integrating board members, local artists, and community partners in future selection committees.

We chose Sarah Marie because her project brought a new, vital perspective to the themes PPMM is already addressing around telling stories of people's lived experiences, destigmatizing, and healing.

FMM: Does the artist receive compensation, and will there be other opportunities for project applications - including from those who proposed projects for this cycle?

Alex: Each artist receives \$15,000 for a four-month residency. Yes, we encourage people to re-submit applications, and we welcome new applicants as well! There will be two more artist residence cycles this year. People can apply in March for the cycle that runs from May through August, and we're accepting applications in June and July for the final cycle of 2023 that runs from September through December.

FMM: Will there be a public showing of the resident artist's work, including Sarah Marie's "Faceless" project?

Alex: Resident artists will be expected to have a final product that can be shared widely within the PPMM community.

Sarah Marie will be sharing her project online, and there may be an in-person exhibit, depending on safety protocols for COVID-19. It will also be posted on our social media and shared with our community partners. Mark, let's leave one line of blank space here, between Alex's last quotes, as a transition

Our rights are being eroded day by day, so this artist program is another way of speaking up – being heard and seen.

For more information about PPMM's artist-in-residence program, you can go to this site.

If you are interested in sharing your story for Sarah Marie H's "Faceless" project, you can fill out a participation form here.

Being Memorable

In this space, we spotlight health center staff members who have been mentioned by name in patient surveys for delivering a fantastic patient experience.

"My passion is abortion care" Clinician Tessa G., in Bakersfield

Here's what two recent patients at the Bakersfield health center had to say about their experience with Clinician Tessa G.:

- "Ms. Tessa, the nurse practitioner who helped me with my prescription, was very kind...extremely professional and helpful. "
- "Tessa was very informative and helpful with providing assistance and helpful information regarding possible side effects or risks of being on birth control, things I hadn't known prior."



Bakersfield Clinician Tessa G.

In the more than two years that Clinician Tessa G. has been at PPMM's Bakersfield health center, she said that being trained in aspiration abortion care has been extremely rewarding. "This is so exciting to me," she said. "I love providing these services and helping patients to feel confident about their decisions."

Tessa said that she is very attuned to listening carefully to patients in the exam room. She knows that, for some of them, it may be the first time a medical professional has done that: "A lot of patients – and women, especially – are just not heard when it comes to health care."

Providing abortion care in a safe and affirming setting is something that Tessa said she is especially proud of. "I am just so grateful to be able give this care," she said. "I grew up in the Midwest, where there were only two clinics in the state where you could have an abortion - and nurse practitioners couldn't provide them.

"It means so much to be able practice to the full extent of our license and to help normalize abortion care," she said. "Many times abortion patients will come in feeling nervous and worried about being judged, or they have incorrect information about abortion. I always explain the facts, including that abortion does not lead to fertility problems, one of the myths that's out there.

"I tell them they don't need to explain or justify why they're here, and by the end of the appointment they are smiling. You have to trust people with their own decisions, that they know what's best for their lives."

Meanwhile, when Tessa isn't working, she likes to skydive. Yes, jump out of planes. She's done 90 jumps so far!

OVE NOTES Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

Thank you for showing up and helping people under circumstances that I'm sure feels scary sometimes. We appreciate you! **Two donors from Sacramento**

Thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you for holding the line and providing abortion services in the midst of attacks on our reproductive rights. I am in awe of your strength and compassion. Sending you all a big hug.

Supporter from Silicon Valley

Dear incredible people at Planned Parenthood, though I have never needed your services directly, I have known people who have. And what a difference you have made to them. Knowing you're there gives me and my family the biggest peace of mind. Your community appreciates you!!!! Supporter from Nevada

FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

PPMM Education "Enlaces" Partnering with Latine facilitators who bring sex ed to their communities

By PPMM Education Program Impact Manager Mónica M. One of PPMM Education's latest innovations, Enlaces: Conectando Communidades, was inspired by our successful Monterey County program, promotores, which means "community health workers." PPMM's original promotores program trained leaders of Latine communities in the county to educate and facilitate sex-ed conversations, in



Spanish, with their neighbors and families. Enlaces aims to scale this type of program to more communities through a design that lets our promotores partners take the lead and lean on us for support.

The program specifically addresses issues of stigma and barriers surrounding sex education and sexual health access within the Latine community. Results from the FY22-23 Enlaces program pilot were extremely promising: An overwhelming majority of participants reported being "very confident" discussing and educating other community members about sex ed topics, including through a social-justice lens.

Eleven partner facilitators from the California Central Coast and Central Valley received training from PPMM Education and implemented pláticas (workshops) with community members on the topics of healthy relationships and trusted adult communication. The feedback PPMM received from Enlaces facilitators confirmed that teaching young people about healthy relationships and communication with their partners or trusted adults is an essential component of sex education.

The 107 Enlaces platica participants ranged in age and gender, however all identified within the Latine community and the groups were facilitated in Spanish.

Led by our Program Impact channel, the Enlaces pilot allowed us to create collective impact with Latine community partners and learn how to improve programming to better support promotores program participants and partners.

Through the pilot, PPMM Education was able to connect with local organizations that primarily serve monolingual Spanish speaking communities. This was our first effort to develop an all-Spanish and scalable program for community partners. It was very gratifying to see that they were able to implement platicas in places that we would not have been able reach, and they could invest in the program in their own way.

Folks explored cultural values and lived experiences of the Latine community in relation to sex education, sexual health access, parent-child communication, consent, and reproductive justice. The sex ed topics also prompted insightful conversations during the pilot facilitator training.

Having these conversations led by community partners, with the intention of providing equity was truly restorative for me as a first-generation Chicana and as the trainer of our facilitators. I was fortunate to share in deep and reflective discussions on the impact of community sex ed, not only informing folks but also dismantling systemic and cultural barriers.

For more information on PPMM Education programming click here!

From the Enlaces report: Partner facilitators' confidence in applying sex ed tactics after completing PPMM training

Sex Ed Tactic/Skill	% of Participants Reporting Confident or Very Confident
Utilizing the Flor de Poder framework	70%
Answering difficult questions	79.2%
Facilitating discussions where participants share their values, beliefs, and experiences related to safer sex.	75%
Facilitating discussions where participants share their values, beliefs, and experiences related to relationships.	100%
Facilitating discussions where participants share their values, beliefs, and experiences related to trusted adult communication.	83.3%
Delivering safer sex content through a social justice, community centered lens.	79%
Delivering relationships content through a social justice, community centered lens.	85.6%
Delivering trusted adult communication content through a social justice, community centered lens.	81.6%

Milestones & Events

VIP visit to Oakland Coliseum health center U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra talks with **PPMM** about abortion-access



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra (center, with CEO Stacy Cross) visits the Coliseum health center, in Oakland

The Coliseum health center in Oakland hosted US Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, who made a special trip in February to speak with staff about the abortionaccess challenges our patients are facing. Sec. Becerra's visit was especially urgent as we await a ruling from a conservative extremist federal judge in Texas that could result in a nationwide ban of mifepristone, one of the drugs in a two-drug regimen widely used for medication abortion. (See Letter from the CEO, top of the Full Mar Monte.)

Associate Medical Director Dr. Nimi M. and Lead HSS Trainer Katie G. shared what it's been like on the ground for providers and patients - and what consequences the Texas case could have on quality of abortion care. The group discussed possible solutions, and several volunteers also attended to share their personal abortion stories. At the end of the meeting, Sec. Becerra re-affirmed his commitment to fight for Planned Parenthood and our patients!

Farewell, Cheri!

After more than six years at PPMM, Cheri Greven stepped down in February from her position as executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte (PPAMM,) our sister organization that does electoral and advocacy work.

Under Cheri's leadership, PPAMM endorsed 101 diverse candidates during the 2022 midterm elections, and a very impressive 74% won their races!



"My time at PPMM and PPAMM has been a dream and an honor," Cheri said before her departure. "I want to share my gratitude for the PPMM staff, volunteers, and activist community. No mountain was too high to climb to bring the best patient care, most impactful sex education, and willingness to volunteer precious time or agitate in the streets to affect change."

VP of Public Affairs Lauren Babb will lead PPAMM as interim executive director during this transition. Thanks and good luck to Cheri, and congrats to Lauren!



Development's new Major Gifts Officer Anissa N., with her dearly departed chihuahua, Lola

Big thank-you from Roseville staff to North Highlands colleagues

Roseville Center Manager Marthea T. said her team posed for this photo to show their gratitude to their colleagues at the North Highlands site who have been working shifts at Roseville to ease a staffing crunch.

"The North Highlands team has been so generous in sharing staff to assist us so that we may continue to see patients and cross-train our staff at the same time," Marthea said. She added that the Roseville team has also observed some great techniques their North Highlands colleagues have demonstrated to work more cohesively and efficiently. Nice going, everyone!



Public Affairs Director Dianna Zamora-Marroquin (far right) on a panel at UC Berkeley's February Women in Leadership Conference

New development on the Major Gifts team! Welcome Anissa N. to the PPMM Major Gifts team!! Anissa came on board during a busy January as the new major gifts officer for the Central Coast and Central Valley regions. She hit the ground running for the Santa Cruz Roadshow and secured many gifts that led to the event's success, including

a \$25,000 sponsorship from a first-time donor!

Roseville health center team shows the love for North Highlands staff

Spreading the word about active advocacy

The "Advocacy and Activism" panel at the recent Women in Leadership Conference, sponsored by UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, included PPMM's own Public Affairs Director Dianna Zamora-Marroquin: "We spoke about how our personal missions led us to a life of advocacy and activism, the intersectionality of the work we do, how to remain motivated, and why self-care is vital for long-term success." An inspiration!

The Big Picture

Public Affairs on campus





PP Gen Action students at College of the Sequoias in Visalia



PPMM Grassroots Organizer Elizabeth M., left, and a San Jose State Gen Action student, with Valentine's Day condom goodie bags

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PPMM's Public Affairs team headed back to school on "Galentine's" Feb. 13 - a TV sitcominspired day when women celebrate their friendships – and Valentine's Day as well. They went to help out college students in our Planned Parenthood Gen Action clubs, who were also promoting sexual health during National Condom Week. It was a lotta love!

Grassroots Organizer Karina G. joined five Gen Action members at the College of the Sequoias Visalia campus who were leading outreach efforts, handing out hundreds of condoms to students. It was the group's first official event as a campus Gen Action club.

The COS Gen Action-ers also distributed information about sex ed and PPMM health centers in the region as well as information about STIs and abortion rights, which sparked a lot of conversation among the students who participated.

"They were so excited to share that we were an official club on campus and let students know that there is a space on their campus to support PPMM," Karina said. "Many students expressed the need to have better comprehensive sex ed and why it is important to spread awareness on campus. We got so much love from students who strongly support PPMM and hope to get involved with our COS Gen Action club, advocating for reproductive rights on campus and for their community."

Grassroots Organizer Elizabeth M. took PP devotion the campuses at University of California, Santa Cruz (UČSC) and San Jose State University, where Gen Action club members also handed out hundreds of condoms and connected with other students to offer information about local health resources and the importance of safe, consensual sex.

At UCSC, more than a dozen Gen Action members came to a Contraceptive Trivia Night to test their knowledge and practice their PPMM advocacy. Elizabeth also helped out while the San Jose State club members handed out condom goodie bags and sexual health information on Valentine's Day.

"The SJSU Gen Action president shared that she felt like she was back in elementary school, when she passed out valentines," Elizabeth said. "But this time she was sharing beneficial resources to college students and promoting safe sex on campus.

"We appreciated all the support- and people smiling, who received our condom valentines!"

Good Reads

Feb. 2, Salon The overturn of Roe cost the GOP, so why are they now doubling down on abortion bans?

Feb. 25, Washington Post The Texas judge who could take down the abortion pill

Feb. 28, Slate Actually, one Texas judge is not the final decision maker on medication abortion