



## DECEMBER 2023 CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas monthly newsletter. As a member of our community, we would like to share the latest updates on the work at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.

### COMPASSIONATE CARE WITHOUT JUDGMENT

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provides trusted, evidence-based sexual healthcare and education while advocating for reproductive justice, care without judgment, and access to healthcare for all. When you support Planned Parenthood, you are providing compassionate, non-judgmental healthcare and education for all patients. Thank you for caring. No matter what.

Texans depend on us for expert healthcare services including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and a full range of birth control methods. Because of your support, patients on the spectrum of gender identity and expression trust Planned Parenthood for their sexual healthcare needs.

Our patients count on Planned Parenthood for compassion. Thank you for providing them compassionate, high-quality healthcare and sex education.



**"Great service from all of the staff, they were sweet, told me their names, explained what they were doing each step of the way, which I loved. Planned Parenthood is a very caring and awesome environment, and by far the best customer service I've had in a healthcare environment. Thank you!"**

**– Pamela, a Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas patient**

### ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQIA+ YOUTH

**Our sex education programs are essential for LGBTQIA+ youth today.** Texas is an increasingly hostile state for LGBTQIA+ youth, presenting dozens of bills in the 2023 Legislative Session that increased barriers to healthcare resources. The American Journal of Public Health cites that unintended pregnancies among high school teens are more common among LGBTQIA+ teens than heterosexual teens. 23% of lesbian or bisexual females experienced a pregnancy and 29% of gay or bisexual males reported getting a partner pregnant, compared to 10% of heterosexual males and 13% of heterosexual females. A Center for Disease Control report highlights how violence, stigma, discrimination, family disapproval, and social rejection create significant health disparities for LGBTQIA+ youth. Planned Parenthood's compassionate, inclusive sex education addresses these disparities.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' educators implement an effective sex education program for LGBTQIA+ high school students called **"In-clued."** **These education workshops are designed to honor teens' sexual orientations and gender identities ensuring that all students are informed and empowered to make decisions to protect their sexual health.** Teen workshops are offered with "Education Nights" for parents of LGBTQIA+ teens. These parent sessions offer vital resources and support, fostering understanding and enhancing family communication. All Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' education programs are offered at no cost to participants due to donor support.

### A YEAR OF ADVOCACY

Planned Parenthood advocates for a world where everyone can access quality healthcare, including abortion. We know you share our vision of a world in which everyone can access quality healthcare and information to live their lives fully, without judgment. Supporters like you are at the center of our movement to restore and protect access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. With you standing with us, we will not back down!



*Picture to the right: El Paso event participants.*

## Your support matters.

Our doors are open because of your support. In 2022, more than 74% of our funding came from individual donations like yours, with 15% of our donations contributed in the month of December.

Funds donated to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provided:

# 135,821

tests and treatments for STIs, HIV tests, PrEP/PEP HIV prevention medications, and HPV vaccines to prevent cervical cancer, certain types of oral, anal, penile and vulvar cancers, and genital warts.

# 43,558

birth control services to plan and space pregnancies and treat health conditions including endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome.

# 5,175

cervical cancer screenings and treatments to diagnose and prevent cervical cancer at the earliest and most treatable stages including colposcopy and LEEP (Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure).

# 101,752

Healthcare visits in 2022 at Planned Parenthood health centers in Austin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Paris, Plano, Tyler, Waco, and surrounding communities.

# 67%

In 2022, 67% of patients at Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas are uninsured.

## A NEWS CONNECTION

Lubbock County becomes latest to approve an "abortion travel ban." Lubbock is now the fourth and largest county in Texas to pass an ordinance intended to instill fear and misinformation about abortion by threatening civil lawsuits for someone who helps a friend or family member access an abortion outside of Texas if they travel through Lubbock County. The ordinance can only be enforced by private citizens who file lawsuits against people assisting someone seeking an abortion and is considered unconstitutional. Simply by creating fear, this ordinance is designed to produce distress and confusion for people seeking abortions.

**"Texans already live under some of the most restrictive and dangerous abortion bans in the country, yet anti-abortion extremists continue to push additional unnecessary, confusing, and fear-inducing barriers to essential healthcare. Though banned from providing abortions by Texas' statewide bans, the Planned Parenthood Health Center in Lubbock is a trusted resource for reproductive and sexual healthcare and education for West Texans in Lubbock and surrounding communities. With high rates of uninsured residents and sexually transmitted infections in Lubbock County, Planned Parenthood is focused on ensuring that Texans can access high-quality, affordable healthcare safely and without the stigma and judgment that these political ordinances create."**

**– Autumn Keiser, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications for Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas**

## WAYS TO GIVE

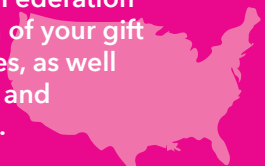
Support high-quality healthcare and sex education programs. Please get in touch with us today at [development@ppgt.org](mailto:development@ppgt.org) or **214-254-3017** to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood ensures high-quality healthcare for generations ahead.

**What's the difference between giving to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and Planned Parenthood Federation of America?**

When you donate directly to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, 100% of your gift supports local healthcare and sex education services across Central, East, North, and West Texas.



When you donate to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a portion of your gift supports local services, as well as national advocacy and sex education efforts.



If you have a question, want to learn more, or want to get involved, please get in touch with the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or [development@ppgt.org](mailto:development@ppgt.org).

