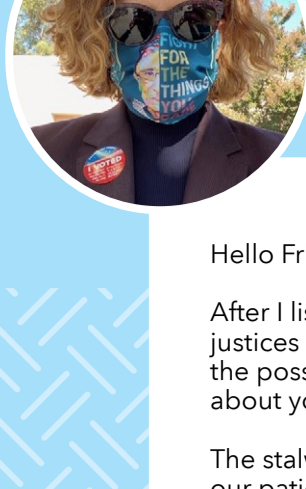


# The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



## LETTER FROM THE CEO

**At the end of this very challenging year, I am so grateful for allies like you**

Hello Friends,

After I listened this month to the disturbing questions being asked by U.S. Supreme Court justices about Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban - in a case that clearly sets the stage for the possible elimination of abortion rights in more than half of this country -- I thought about you.

The stalwart support and commitment that you have shown to our work, our mission, and our patients has bolstered me during this extremely perilous year for reproductive rights. This holiday season, I want to be sure you know how grateful I am on behalf of our patients, our communities, and our staff.

This is also a good time to celebrate our accomplishments together, including how PPMM has served more than 170,000 patients who needed us more than ever during this second year of the COVID pandemic. If you haven't already seen our FY21 Impact Report, I invite you to take a look at all the work you have supported in our communities over the past year.

There is no doubt that next year will also be very challenging. The Supreme Court's decision on the Mississippi case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, is likely to arrive in May or June, and this month the court once again allowed the outrageous Texas six-week abortion ban to stand while that case makes its way through the legal system.

Meanwhile, PPMM is preparing to serve people who will come to California and Nevada, where abortion rights are enshrined in the state constitution and state laws, in order to access health care that they may no longer have in the states where they live. We have been training more clinicians in providing abortion and expanding some health centers to be near mass-transportation hubs.

A report was issued early this month by the California Future of Abortion Council -- a recently established coalition of researchers, legislators, providers, and patients -- that made recommendations for how the state can prepare to serve potentially tens of thousands who will come here to access abortion care. I am proud that several PPMM staff members were part of this coalition, and our affiliate will be an important part of this work.

In closing, I want to wish you all a healthy, happy, and peaceful holiday season with the people you love. In these very difficult times, I am so thankful to be working with colleagues and partners like you who are committed every day to making a difference in people's lives.

Our mission has never been more important, and you are a crucial part of what keeps it going.

With deepest gratitude,

*Stacy*

## 2022 VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES ACCESS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (PPMM) is pleased to invite you to our Access Is Non-Negotiable Virtual Event Series. *Roe v. Wade* is in grave danger and if it falls, 40 million people in 26 states could lose the right to abortion. Please join us for one or all of our virtual events and help ensure PPMM can provide "care - no matter what" to our community and anyone travelling to one of our health centers seeking care.

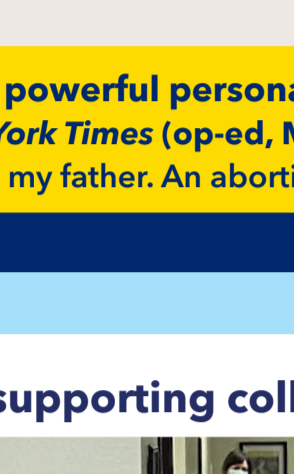
Mark your calendars!

**Roe v. Wade Luncheon**  
Friday, January 21, 2022 - Noon

**Peninsula Breakfast**  
Friday, March 11, 2022 - 8:30 a.m.

**Capital Dinner**  
(Registration available soon)  
Thursday, May 19, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

The first event in the series, the *Roe v. Wade Luncheon* is on Friday, January 21, 2022 and will commemorate this landmark decision. We're pleased to welcome UC Irvine School of Law Professor Michele B. Goodwin as our featured speaker. Goodwin is also the award-winning author of "Policing The Womb: Invisible Women and the Criminalization of Motherhood," an advocate, and celebrated social commentator. With the fate of *Roe v. Wade* in the hands of the Supreme Court, hearing from Professor Goodwin could not be more timely.



**Roe v. Wade Luncheon**  
Friday, January 21, 2022  
Noon - 1 p.m.

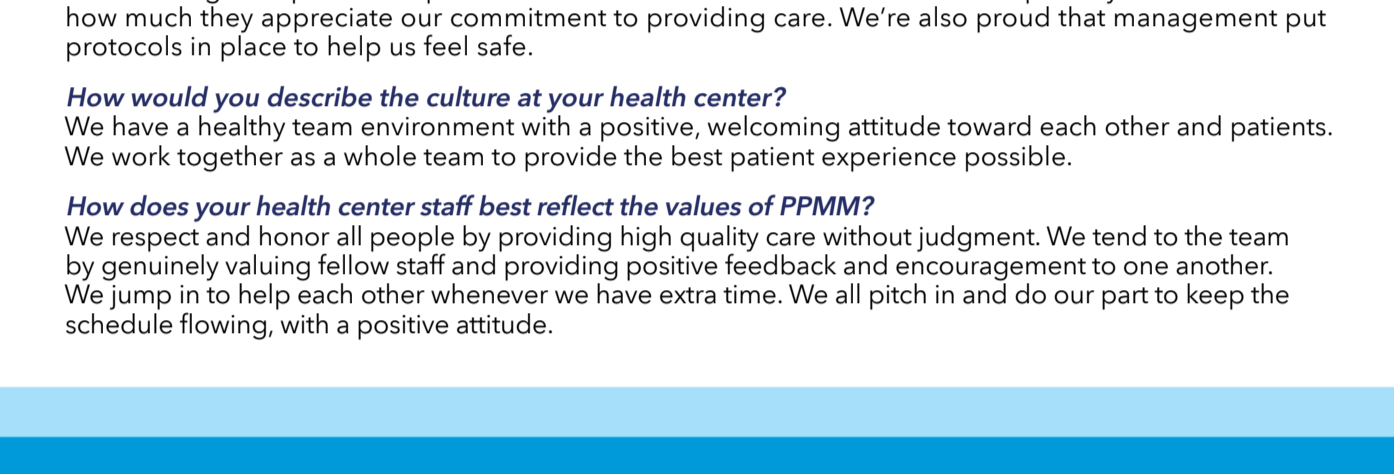
**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
**MICHELE B. GOODWIN**

Professor, UC Irvine School of Law  
Award-winning author, advocate,  
social commentator

### ICYMI: Professor Goodwin's powerful personal essay in the New York Times

Nov. 30 - *New York Times* (op-ed, Michele Goodwin)  
"I was raped by my father. An abortion saved my life."

## Welcoming patients and supporting colleagues at North Highlands



North Highlands health center staff

**What are you most proud of about the way your health center has responded, to patients and each other, during the pandemic?**  
We are most proud that our health center was able to stay open when other clinics in the community were closing. Our patients expressed how difficult it was for them to see their primary care doctors and how much they appreciate our commitment to providing care. We're also proud that management put protocols in place to help us feel safe.

**How would you describe the culture at your health center?**  
We have a healthy team environment with a positive, welcoming attitude toward each other and patients. We work together as a whole team to provide the best patient experience possible.

**How does your health center staff best reflect the values of PPMM?**  
We respect and honor all people by providing high quality care without judgment. We tend to the team by genuinely valuing fellow staff and providing positive feedback and encouragement to one another. We jump in to help each other whenever we have extra time. We all pitch in and do our part to keep the schedule flowing, with a positive attitude.

## 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.

### Making patients feel heard at Reno Fifth St. health center

Here's what a recent patient said about care they received from Clinician Kate S.:

*"Katherine was AMAZING! I have almost never felt so heard, cared for and instantly comfortable with a medical professional. This was by far the best experience I have ever had at any kind of doctor's office. She explained so many things that I hadn't even wondered about and made my options very clear. Quick and painless procedure. When I left I felt as if I had made a friend. Truly wonderful visit. And that's not something one usually says about a Pap smear."*



Clinician Kate S.

PPMM Clinician Kate S. says one of the first things she thinks about before seeing patients is the number of obstacles they've likely had to overcome just to get to the appointment. That makes her especially determined to be sure patients feel immediately comfortable - and that she can take care of anything else they may need during that time in the exam room.

"I know some people have had to struggle to get child care or time off work or they've had to take a long way," Kate said. "I want them to feel, after they've jumped over those hurdles, that they can breathe a sigh of relief as soon as they walk in. They know they're going to be taken care of."

That often means going beyond the service that patients came in for. "I always check to see if the patient may be due for another test or something else and ask if they want to take care of it while they're here instead of having to make another appointment," she said.

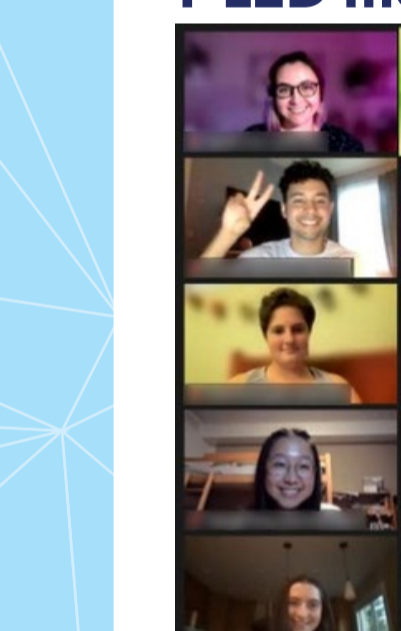
"Recently, I saw a young woman who had come (a very long way) because she needed an IUD. I saw that she was also due for a Pap test and asked her if she wanted to do that as well. She said her life is really hectic right now, and she was so glad we could take care of both things in one visit."

It's more than just health care. Kate said, "When they leave the health center, they feel like someone is on their side."



## COVID Care STORIES

These are stories about how our amazing staff is caring for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read more on the PPMM blog at [ppmarmonte.org/blog](http://ppmarmonte.org/blog).



HSS Trainer Maria P.

### Bringing vasectomy services to coast health centers

Health Services Specialist Trainer Maria P. said PPMM's vasectomy program has been very well received by our patients on the coast since the service became available there in the fall of 2021.

Especially during the COVID era, patients have said they are relieved that they no longer have to drive for hours to get services that they hadn't been able to access where they live.

"Not only do they not have to travel far to get this health care, but they also don't have to come in to the health center for the initial consultation and preparation because they can have that appointment via telehealth," Maria said. "That makes a big difference."

Maria said many vasectomy patients discover that PPMM provides the service after their partners come to one of our health centers and ask about it.

"I see couples come in, many already have children, and the vasectomy patient will tell us, 'I'm so glad I can do this for me, for my partner, and for my family.' They are truly delighted," Maria said.

"I feel so proud to be part of that, proud of helping to provide this service that people really want to have available in their community."

## FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

### Y-LED means youth-led sex ed!



PPMM Education Y-LED group

The goal of Y-LED is to create more relevant, impactful, and accessible sex ed content for youth and young adults in partnership with PPMM education staff. Y-LED youth designers meet bi-monthly to research, design, and review digital education products and learning experiences for youth and young adults.

#### FY22 PROJECTS

- Collaborating to create new virtual high school Peer Education program
- Providing feedback about new Digital Sex Ed Journey for MS and HS
- Continuing to develop our ¡Con Confianza! mobile game for Spanish speakers
- Creating concept for Instagram account for young adults
- Designing version 2.0 of the Safer Sex E-Course for older teens/young adults

**Youth Designers: 23**

**Ages: 15-24**

**PPMM Counties Represented: 8**

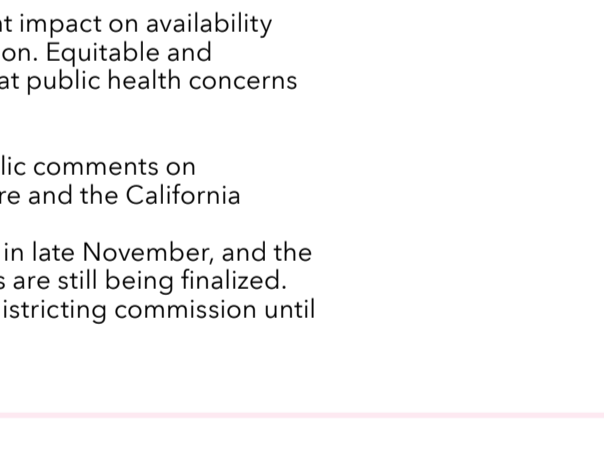
#### TARGET OUTCOMES

- 85% or more of Y-LED designers will agree or strongly agree that...
- Participating in Y-LED helped me develop new skills (e.g. content creation, character development, and learning design).
- I learned new things about content creation and learning design.
- I felt connected to the mission of Planned Parenthood.

## The Big Picture

### Protecting telehealth-funding and engaging communities in congressional redistricting

Our Public Affairs department and Dir. of Quality Management and Nursing Roza F. worked together to let California state legislators know about the impact of delayed care during the COVID-19 pandemic. During an Assembly committee hearing, Roza discussed PPMM's rapid shift to providing the telehealth services that have been critical to serving our patients.



PPMM Dir. of Quality Management and Nursing Roza F., testifying online at a California Assembly committee hearing on the impacts of COVID-19 on reproductive health

Roza also highlighted the importance of continued funding to reimburse for audio and video telehealth services as well as the importance of funding research to develop innovation in STI-testing.

#### Congressional redistricting for the next decade - and the communities we serve

The Public Affairs team has been working with community and coalition partners to prioritize the once-in-a-decade congressional redistricting efforts in Northern Nevada as well as in California's Central Valley, Sacramento and San Joaquin County.

Drawing the new redistricting maps will have a significant impact on availability of housing, jobs, child care, health care, and transportation. Equitable and transparent redistricting maps increase the likelihood that public health concerns are addressed with policy solutions.

The team mobilized community members to submit public comments on the proposed statewide maps to Nevada State Legislature and the California Redistricting Commission.

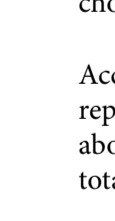
The Nevada legislature approved the redistricting maps in late November, and the team is navigating legal challenges. The California maps are still being finalized. Any California resident can submit a comment to the redistricting commission until December 23, 2021.

### Public Affairs' community organizers keep PPGenAction students fired up!

Having a campus "reproductive justice movie night" is just one of the innovative outreach and engagement activities that dedicated students in our eight PPGenAction chapters have launched in recent weeks. Our Public Affairs community organizers have done a great job keeping the students engaged, informed, and motivated!



## San Francisco Chronicle



### If Roe is overturned, California will become an abortion refuge. We aren't ready.

Stacy Cross | Dec. 3, 2021

The questions asked by Supreme Court justices during this month's arguments about Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban told this country: It is very bleak. Next year when the ruling comes out, the clock will probably be turned back a half-century for millions of people across the country.

But not in California.

If the court rules the next spring to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision entirely or just upholds the Mississippi law, as is likely, at least 40 million U.S. women of reproductive age will probably be living in states that are hostile to their ability to choose whether or not to give birth.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research nonprofit focused on reproductive health, 26 states have laws that could be used to restrict legal abortions, including a dozen states that have so-called "trigger laws" ready to enact total or near-total abortion bans should *Roe vs. Wade* be overturned.

Those who can afford it will have no choice but to travel out of state for abortion care. And many of them will come to California, where abortion rights are enshrined in the state constitution.

However, a large number of the California patients we see in health centers at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, the affiliate I lead, face a stark abortion-access landscape even in our state. They live in areas where there are no abortion providers, especially in parts of the Central Valley.

Our patients face abortion-access challenges simply because they don't have the time and money to travel hours from where they live to receive the affordable abortion care that is their right.

In just the past year, our clinicians providing abortion care have seen many patients who have driven more than 50 miles to access abortion. Some have escaped domestic violence situations exacerbated by COVID lockdowns, others are overwhelmed mothers of children with special needs and have no support or are single parents who had lost their jobs due to COVID.

But we had seen plenty of patients in similar circumstances long before the pandemic began.

This is the plight already faced by tens of thousands of people in states across the country over the past decade — especially those experiencing poverty — as hundreds of abortion restrictions have been introduced in state legislatures. In 2021 alone, nearly 600 such restrictions were introduced and 106 have been enacted.

With the Supreme Court poised to allow states to impose even harsher restrictions, more than half the country would become an abortion desert.

Over the past year, more than 7,000 people came to Planned Parenthood health centers in California from out of state, and the vast majority came for abortion care. One of our patients from Texas brought her suitcase into the exam room because she planned to head to the airport as soon as her abortion was over, unable to afford a hotel room for the night.

That 7,000 is only a trickle of what we are likely to see if the court overturns 50 years of legal precedent. Another study from the Guttmacher Institute showed that there will be a nearly 3,000% increase in the number of women of reproductive age who may drive to California to access abortion — up from 46,000 to 1.4 million. And those are just the ones who can somehow afford to get here.

Our state must begin to prepare for this now. Even with a Legislature that overwhelmingly supports California as a reproductive freedom state, we must do more in order to provide equity and access to everyone who needs it.

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently established the California Future of Abortion Council to evaluate the obstacles and propose solutions, with researchers, legislators, abortion providers and patients working in collaboration. The council aims to recommend policy that will enhance the state's ability to serve as a place where people coming from other parts of the country and remote parts of the state can access abortion.

In the meantime, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, whose service area spans from the California coast to the Sierra Nevada, is training more of our clinicians to provide abortion to increase the number of patients we are able to see. We will also be expanding health centers to areas near major transportation hubs, where it will be easier for out-of-state patients to access care.

Whatever happens with the Supreme Court ruling next year, we know that more people will continue to come to California to access abortion care that has disappeared where they live.

For years, many people in these states have felt as though they never really had the right to abortion because, due to restrictive laws passed since they came of reproductive age, they could not afford to access it. Others will feel that this is the first time as Americans that they have ever lost a fundamental right.

For all the people who will be traveling here with suitcases packed for only a one-night stay, cars with a full gas tank to drive one way to a health center, those whose journeys have been paid for by an overwhelmed network of local abortion-access funds and those who had to take unpaid days off from work, our state will be a place where they can exercise this right over their own bodies. Where this personal decision will never be policed by judges and politicians.

California must lead the way.

Stacy Cross is CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, headquartered in San Jose.