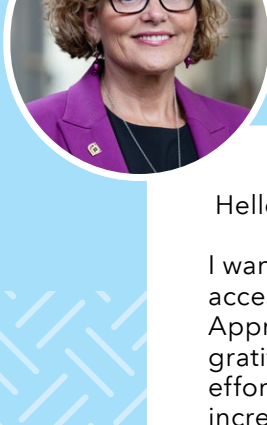


The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



LETTER FROM THE CEO Championing abortion-access, celebrating Abortion Provider Appreciation

Hello Friends,

I want to begin by acknowledging the important role our supporters play in expanding access to PPMM's excellent abortion care for our patients. Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, celebrated on March 10, was an opportunity for me to express my gratitude to our amazing staff, and it's another chance to thank you for supporting our efforts year-round, caring for patients from across the country as we constantly work to increase access to abortion care.

There have been other events to celebrate as well. You can read, below, about our March 27 ribbon-cutting ceremony to publicly announce that PPMM is the first health care organization in the country using a new, sophisticated diagnostic testing machine at full capacity. Elected officials, including San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, came to congratulate us on this important milestone for our patients.

Also, I recently joined our Reno staff and Nevada supporters in Carson City during an uplifting an energetic lobbying day to advocate in the state capital for reproductive rights legislation, including an amendment that will permanently enshrine abortion-access into the state constitution. (See *Milestones* section, below.)

State laws protecting abortion-access, like those in Nevada, are now being tested like never before. This proposed constitutional amendment to guard reproductive freedom ensures that Nevadans – as well as anyone who comes to our state seeking care – are protected in the strongest way possible.

Just like Prop. 1 in California, the amendment to Nevada's constitution will protect not only the right to abortion, but also a person's privacy and right to obtain birth control, prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, vasectomy and tubal ligation, miscarriage management, and infertility care. That is something we can all get behind!

The central goal for PPMM in Nevada is to increase abortion-access by eliminating the state's "physician only" law. Nevada is the only state I've worked in – and I've worked in five states – that prohibits anyone but a physician from providing abortions. We know that PPMM's abortion-training program for more of our California clinicians, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants, has significantly improved access for our patients. And we need to be able to do the same for patients in Nevada.

As we enter the next phase of the COVID pandemic, I also want to thank our Chief Medical Operating Officer Dr. Laura Dalton for her heroic and incredible leadership during the past three years. She has not only kept our affiliate – patients and staff – as safe as possible during this time, but she has also been a national leader in setting the tone for other Planned Parenthood affiliates and medical professionals across the country. We are all grateful for her continued wise leadership.

In closing, I wanted to let you know we are closely watching the federal district court case out of Texas that I discussed in the last issue of the Full Mar Monte, regarding access to the medication abortion drug, mifepristone. (See also the "Mifepristone Teach-In" story, below.) A ruling by the Texas judge, who is an anti-abortion conservative extremist, is expected any day.

We will update you on how we are responding to the outcome of this case, and we will ensure that patients they understand the types of abortion care available to them.

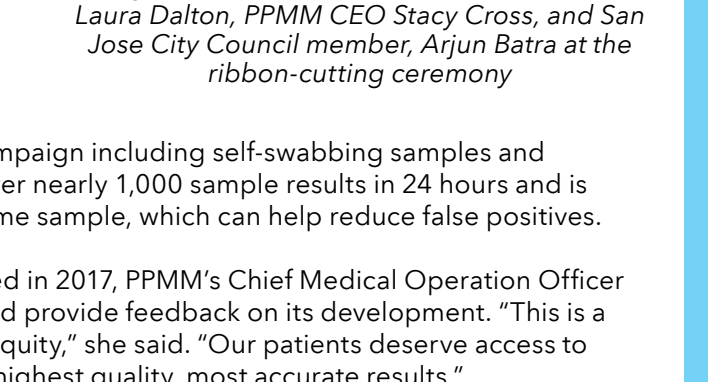
As always, I feel privileged to work with all of you as PPMM continues to care for our patients and the communities that rely on us every day.

In Solidarity,

Stacy

Spotlight on PPMM lab's new testing machine

March 27 was an exciting day at our central San Jose health center when we had an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and gave public officials a tour of our main lab to announce that we are the first health care organization in the country using a new, cutting-edge medical testing machine at full capacity. It's great news for patients and our mission to promote health equity!



(From left) BD Vice President/General Manager Diagnostics Nikos Pavlidis, PPMM CMOO Dr. Laura Dalton, PPMM CEO Stacy Cross, and San Jose City Council member, Arjun Batra at the ribbon-cutting ceremony

The COR PX/MX System, designed by BD, a leading medical technology company, processes high-quality test results for infectious diseases and molecular testing at a far faster rate and at higher volume than previously available.

The use of this BD technology will allow us to launch a revitalized STI treatment campaign including self-swabbing samples and Trichomonas testing. The system can deliver nearly 1,000 sample results in 24 hours and is able to detect three specific STIs in the same sample, which can help reduce false positives.

When the machine was first being designed in 2017, PPMM's Chief Medical Operation Officer Dr. Laura Dalton was invited to observe and provide feedback on its development. "This is a great example of supporting health care equity," she said. "Our patients deserve access to the highest possible level of care and the highest quality, most accurate results."

Many local elected officials, including San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, came to celebrate with us at the ribbon-cutting. Big thanks to the donors who also came to take a tour of the lab and celebrate with us!



"The fight for abortion rights cannot and should not be disconnected from numerous other struggles; like the fight to reduce the number of maternal deaths in the US, like the fight for voting rights indeed the fight for democracy; like the fight against the rising tide of fascism in this country."
– PPMM Peninsula Breakfast Featured Speaker and UC Berkeley Law Professor Khiara Bridges

We are nearly halfway through PPMM's 2023 Event Series: *Together We Rise. We Resist. We Care.* And the turnout for our March programs, the Peninsula Breakfast and Sacramento Roadshow, was incredible, with nearly 400 PPMM coming together for the cause. It was the first time in three years that dedicated PPMM supporters and donors have been able to unite in person at our fundraisers.

Celebrated University of California, Berkeley law professor, Khiara Bridges – widely known for her writing about the intersectionality of race, reproductive justice, and law – wowed the Peninsula Breakfast crowd. Everyone who attended the events were also inspired by other compelling speakers, including PPMM staff, about how we to provide "care, no matter what" in our communities, despite the many obstacles that are in front of us.

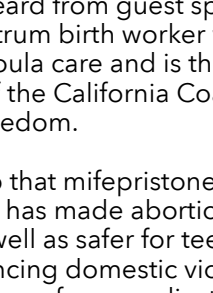
Proceeds from our Event Series help PPMM serve everyone who comes through our doors, regardless of their income or zip code. We hope you will support PPMM and join us at an upcoming event this year! Roadshow tickets start at \$25, and sponsorships start at \$1,500.

To buy tickets or sponsorships and learn more, go to ppmarmonte.org/together. Specific event location information will be provided upon registration.

Oakland Roadshow
Sunday, May 7, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Event
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

Featuring



Olivia Julianna
Abortion Rights Activist
and Director of Politics &
Government Affairs at
Gen-Z for Change



Eric Holder
Former U.S. Attorney General

Monterey County Roadshow
Thursday, June 1, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.

Stockton Roadshow
Sunday, July 9, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

We hope you can join us at one or more of these events. If you have any questions, please email events@ppmarmonte.org.

The Big Picture

PPMM Public Affairs teach-in on mifepristone Explaining the stakes in battle over medication abortion

A group of PP supporters showed up at Dimond Park in Oakland on a recent weekend to learn about mifepristone, an abortion drug widely and safely used for decades, and the high stakes federal court case in Texas that could result in banning it – even in reproductive freedom states like California.

Our Public Affairs team sponsored the "Mifepristone Teach-in" to engage supporters and fill them in on the pending Texas case that's challenging FDA's approval 22 years ago of mifepristone, the first medication in a two-medication regimen for abortion care and miscarriage.

PPMM Alameda County Grassroots Organizer Becca H. and Silicon Valley/Coast Public Affairs Director Dianna Z. came to discuss the far-reaching consequences of eliminating access to mifepristone, especially since medication abortions now make up more than half of all abortions in the country.

Nine participants showed up for the teach-in, including UC Berkeley PP GenAction student leaders, community partners, and faith leaders. They also heard from guest speaker, Nakia W., a full-spectrum birth worker who provides abortion-splum care and is the former executive director of the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom.

Nakia told the group that mifepristone and medication abortion has made abortion care more accessible as well as safer for teenagers and more people experiencing domestic violence. Eliminating mifepristone from medication abortion means these folks might experience more severe symptoms that will be harder to manage and keep private.

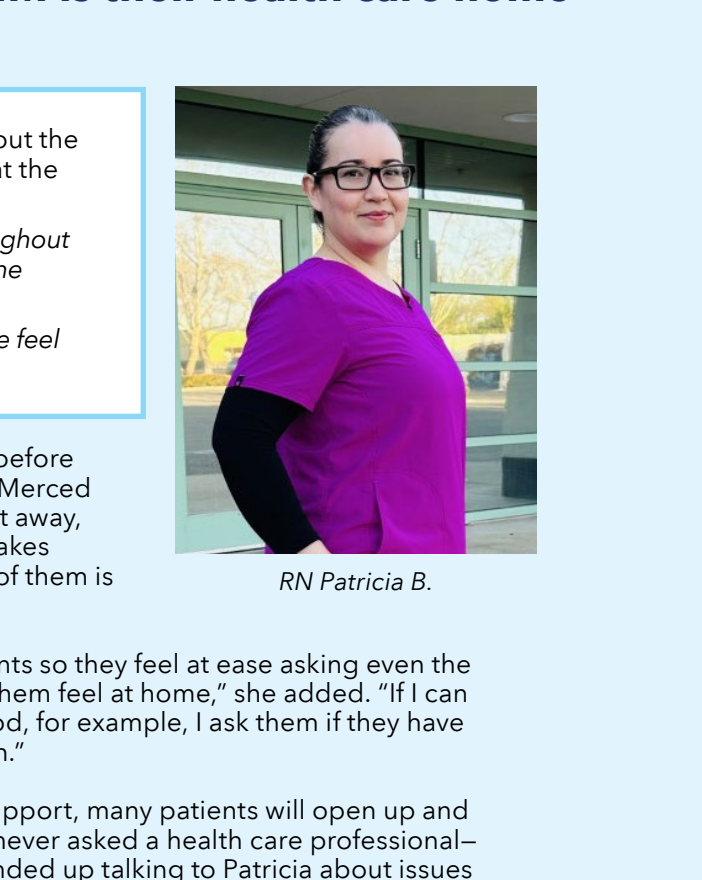
If the Texas federal judge – a religious-right wing anti-abortion extremist – rules that the FDA improperly approved the safety of mifepristone, it could be banned throughout the country. Medication abortion would still be available in reproductive freedom states, but a one-drug regimen is not as highly effective for all patients. And a one-drug regimen is not the highest safety standard available.

Teach-in participants learned that mifepristone has a safety record of more than 99% – safer than having wisdom teeth extracted. They also learned that if the judge's ruling results in a ban on mifepristone, it could jeopardize patients' access to a broad range of other FDA-approved medicines.

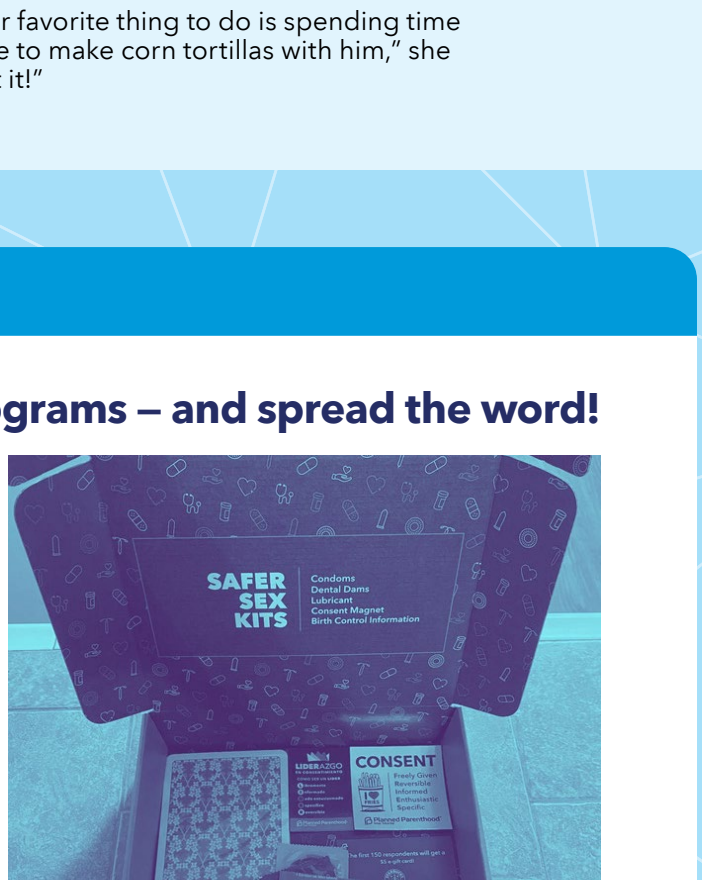
The Texas mifepristone case is clearly another political attack on reproductive rights by far-right extremists who are cynically using the court system to override public opinion that is overwhelmingly in favor of keeping abortion safe and legal. So, at the end of the PPMM teach-in, participants banded together to write heartfelt thank-you notes to our amazing abortion providers.

Fun and informative events like this are a big part of what inspires our volunteers and supporters to hit the streets to register voters at election time, march at rallies, lobby legislators, and organize on college campuses to protect and promote reproductive rights.

The Oakland mifepristone teach-in group left Dimond Park very well-prepared to spread the word!



Silicon Valley/Coast Public Affairs Director Dianna Z. (left) and Grassroots Organizer Becca H. facilitating the PPMM mifepristone teach-in at Oakland's Dimond Park.



Staff and participants at the mifepristone teach-in. Featured speaker Nakia W., third from left.

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 that PPMM is their health care home RN Patricia B. in Merced

Here's what two patients had to say about the care they received from RN Patricia B. at the Merced health center:

- "Patricia was very kind and caring throughout the whole process. She answered all the questions I had."
- "RN Patricia was amazing! She made me feel beyond comfortable and cared for."



RN Patricia B.

If patients have been waiting a little while before they are seen for their appointment at the Merced health center, RN Patricia B. tells them right away, "I appreciate your time." It's one way she makes patients feel immediately that taking care of them is important to her.

"I like to quickly create a rapport with patients so they feel at ease asking even the most sensitive questions, and that makes them feel at home," she added. "If I can see they're nervous when I'm drawing blood, for example, I ask them if they have any hobbies and start an easy conversation."

Patricia finds that once she has built that rapport, many patients feel open up and start asking questions that they may have never asked a health care professional – or anyone – before. Some patients have ended up talking to Patricia about issues ranging from how they can better communicate with their partner to anxiety they are feeling about pending test results.

"It isn't just that people want to have their questions answered, but they also want to feel like they can ask the questions," she said. "In many of these conversations, I just want to remind them of the power they have over their own bodies so that they feel free to make the best decisions for themselves."

"That is what makes patients trust us and want to come back."

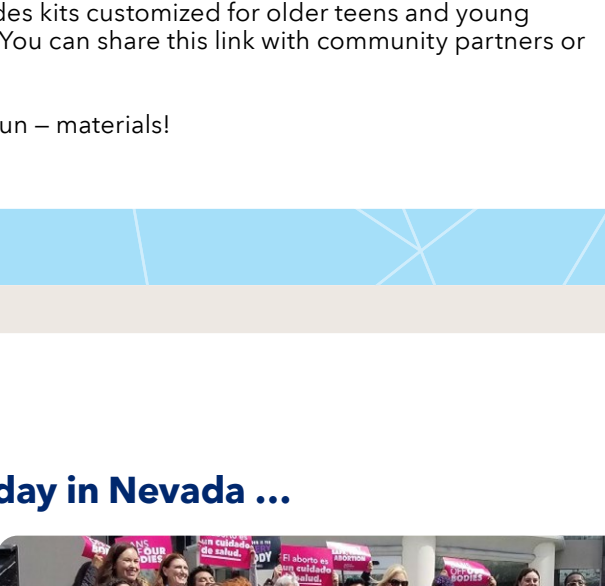
Patricia said that when she's not a work, her favorite thing to do is spending time with her husband and 8-year-old son. "I like to make corn tortillas with him," she said, laughing. "He's getting really good at it!"

FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

Learn more about our sex ed programs – and spread the word!

Here are links to see the great tools and content that the PPMM Education team has developed for young people and families in the communities we serve.

Take the new interactive PPMM Sex Ed Tour, which features hotspots you can click to learn more about all of our FY23 sex ed programs. Or take an in-depth tour of PPMM Sex Ed for middle and high schools and learn about the nine standards our courses are aligned with—more than any other program nationwide—including the California Healthy Youth Act.



The New Parents and Caring Adults Kit is our PPMM website. As part of the Sex Ed Equity project, funded by the U.S. Health and Human Service Department's Office of Population Affairs, we asked parents and caring adults, "What topics would you like to learn more about to help you talk to youth about sexual health?" This guide covers the top topics they listed: Body changes and puberty; friends and relationships; online safety; consent; gender and sexuality; safer sex and health care. Also, a Spanish-language version is coming soon!

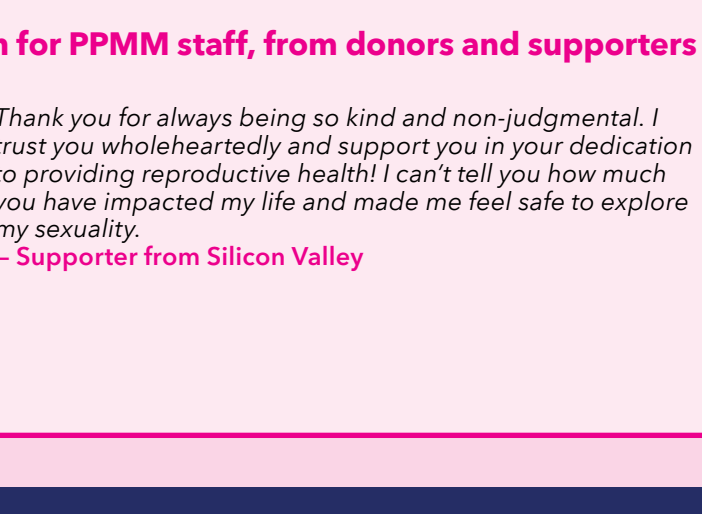
The new Sex Ed (Outreach) Kit and request page includes kits customized for older teens and young adults, youth, parents, and summer Pride celebrations. You can share this link with community partners or stakeholders in our 42 counties.

We hope you check out these super informative – and fun – materials!

Milestones & Events

PPMM at "Feminist Roadshow" lobbying day in Nevada ...

A crowd of volunteers and activists flocked to the capital of Nevada in late March as part of a "Feminist Roadshow" day to lobby legislators in support of Planned Parenthood's priority legislation. That includes enshrining access to abortion, which is already protected by state law, into the state constitution.



Our mighty supporters and staff, including PPMM CEO Stacy Cross (wearing pink jacket, front row) at the Feminist Roadshow lobbying day in Carson City, NV.

PPMM Reno Clinician Kate S. even took the day off to attend the Feminist Roadshow with her entire family, including her daughter – who is also one of our volunteers!

... and the Central Valley Reproductive Justice Coalition, at Fresno State campus

PPMM's Central Valley Public Affairs staff joined community partners in the Central Valley Reproductive Justice Coalition at Cal State, Fresno in March as part of the group's first community event, "Happy Hour for a Cause." More than 30 students came, along with faculty members, to connect with local groups dedicated to achieving reproductive justice and learn more about protecting reproductive rights as well as access to reproductive health care. It was a sensational debut!



Central Valley Reproductive Justice Coalition members, including PPMM's Central Valley Public Affairs Director Socorro S. (back row, fourth from right) and Central Valley Grassroots Organizer Karina G. (seated, far left.)

Love Notes Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

On behalf of the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, (and on this day after National Abortion Provider Appreciation Day), please accept our deepest appreciation for the life-saving health care and needed access to abortion that you and the staff of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte provide on a daily basis.

As people of faith, we applaud your commitment to the most vulnerable among us.
– Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Fresno

Thank you for always being so kind and non-judgmental. I trust you wholeheartedly and support you in your dedication to providing reproductive health! I can't tell you how much you have impacted my life and made me feel safe to explore my sexuality.
– Supporter from Silicon Valley

Good Reads

April 7, *New York Times*
The abortion ban backlash is starting to freak out Republicans

April 6, *Vanity Fair*
The conservative youth movement is still going strong – except at the polls

Support your local Planned Parenthood today! **DONATE** >