



LETTER FROM THE CEO

January's somber 51st anniversary of Roe – and the difference PPMM has made since it was overturned

Hello Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

I know many of you share my feelings about the recent, poignant anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court ruling – a decision that came down 51 years ago in January. It has been more than a year since *Roe* was overturned, but I wanted to share with you a snapshot of what some of your tireless support has helped make possible for patients who have come to us from abortion-ban regions around the country.

First, you should take pride in knowing that your support was essential to caring for people who came from 36 states, in the last fiscal year alone, to receive abortion care at PPMM. These patients traveled from where they live, where their basic reproductive rights have been eliminated, knowing that we are a trusted provider and their health care decisions would be respected in a safe space with excellent care.

Since the draconian Texas abortion ban went into effect in September 2021, almost a year before *Roe* fell, we have seen four times the number of out-of-state abortion patients as we did previously. And the stories PPMM providers have heard from our Texas abortion patients – as well as those who have traveled here from other states after *Roe* was overturned in June 2022 – clearly illustrate the trauma, danger, and injustice caused by these bans.

Our health center staff has heroically helped out-of-state patients despite the extra time pressure, often with little or no notice, and having clinicians travel within the affiliate to provide abortion care for those who may have to catch a flight or long ride home in a matter of hours. Because of this, caring for one out-of-state patient is equivalent to caring for 20 in-state patients at our health centers.

Also, not only do our clinicians sometimes have to pivot quickly from providing a scheduled medication abortion to a procedural abortion, but our staff must also navigate the additional emotional toll of caring for patients who come to us in such desperate circumstances. We often need more staff to help coordinate care for these patients and connect them to outside resources.

Here are just a few stories of out-of-state abortion patients who our health center staff have helped in the months since *Roe* was overturned:

- A young pregnant woman with no access to abortion care needed to end her pregnancy in order to have life-saving surgery that involved a complex medical condition related to her heart.

A portion of her visit to PPMM was subsidized by Justice Funds, covering the cost of her abortion procedure. Our staff provided her with the care she needed, and she did not have to delay her heart surgery any further.

- A single mother of three found herself suddenly on her own, with very limited income, when her partner left her as soon as he found out she was pregnant. Feeling unable to support her family, she wanted to end her pregnancy. Though she had no access to abortion in her state, she did some research and reached out to PPMM.

Our staff discussed her options with her, and she was approved for Justice Funds that would help her afford her procedure as well as the cost of traveling to our affiliate.

When she got the news about the financial support, she burst into tears of gratitude and said, "You are my angels during this hard time, and I will be forever grateful to PPMM."

- One patient with a young child, who had been living with friends and had no permanent home, wanted to end her pregnancy in her home state where there was no abortion access. Her job wasn't paying her enough to afford her living expenses. Meanwhile, she was in court proceedings to settle a domestic violence case – all while attending school to build a better future for herself and her child.

She called PPMM to see if we could provide financial assistance for her abortion procedure. When she was told that Justice Funds would cover part of her care, she was overcome with emotion and relief. She was also amazed that she qualified for financial aid even though she was coming from another state.

- Another young patient came to us, fearing retaliation from her father if he discovered that she was pregnant and seeking an abortion. Though the patient had emotional support from her partner, she was under extreme pressure to conceal her pregnancy and come up with enough money to afford the trip to another state for abortion care.

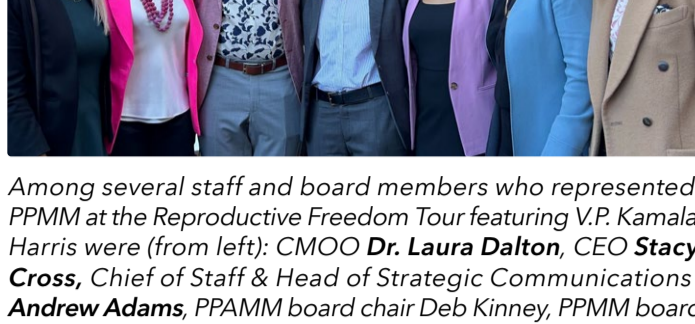
Justice Funds were available for her to travel to PPMM, and she was profoundly thankful to our staff for their warmth and compassion as well as being able to keep her decision private.

Stories like these are reasons to celebrate the work we do, even after the Supreme Court eliminated nearly a half-century of the right to abortion in this country. We are continuing to stand with patients who need us more than ever.

I'm so proud to have you as our champions as, together, we provide greater abortion access and excellent, non-judgmental abortion care in 2024. I remain very thankful for your steadfast dedication and commitment to the patients we serve.

With deep gratitude,

Stacy



Among several staff and board members who represented PPMM at the Reproductive Freedom Tour featuring V.P. Kamala Harris were (from left): CMOO **Dr. Laura Dalton**, CEO **Stacy Cross**, Chief of Staff & Head of Strategic Communications **Andrew Adams**, PPAMM board chair **Deb Kinney**, PPMM board vice chair **Lori Ann Guy**, Senior Dir. of Public Affairs **Dianna Zamora-Marroquin**, and V.P. of Public Affairs **Lauren Babb**

PENINSULA BREAKFAST 2024

Author and social commentator, Roxane Gay speaking at Peninsula Breakfast on March 8!

Please join us for the 29th Peninsula Breakfast on Friday, March 8 with featured speaker Roxane Gay, celebrated national social commentator and author of the best-selling, "Bad Feminist."

This in-person event has sold out in recent years, so if you would like to join us, don't delay in getting your ticket! Sponsorship packages and individual tickets are now available at ppmarmonte.org/PenBreak2024.

[Click here](#) for some of the highlights from last year's exciting event.

Funds raised at this year's Peninsula Breakfast will help PPMM's 34 health centers provide excellent and non-judgmental, essential care including contraception, testing and treatment of STIs, family medicine, cancer-screenings, gender-affirming care, and abortion services. Your partnership will also help us:

- Move forward on a new 12,000 sq ft downtown Oakland health center, with easy access to BART and airport
- Diversify and expand PPMM Education's innovative Digital Learning programs to reach new audiences
- Play a critical role advocating for reproductive freedom in California and Nevada
- Continue to provide excellent, non-judgmental health care to everyone who walks through our doors – no matter where they come from or what care they decide they need.

We hope to see you in March at the 2024 Peninsula Breakfast!



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.

Ensuring that patients know all their options

Salinas HSS Daisy V. and Clinician Kendall J.

Here's what recent patients at the Salinas health center had to say about their appointments with Clinician Kendall J. and health services specialist (HSS) Daisy V.:

"I was a little uncomfortable coming, but Daisy and Kendall made me feel at ease."

"Kendall and Daisy are amazing!"

"Kendall made me feel safe and secure."



From left: HSS Daisy and Clinician Kendall, at the Salinas health center

When patients come to the Salinas health center, health services specialist (HSS) Daisy V. and Clinician Kendall J. want to be sure they feel free to ask any questions they have about their care – and know that they will get the answers.

Kendall said that many times patients, especially those who are younger, are nervous before their appointments: "If they've come in for a pelvic exam, I'll always ask if they have had this exam before and if there are any questions they have. I always talk with them a bit first. And before I leave the room, I ask "Do you have any last-minute thoughts or questions?"

Kendall added that working with gender-affirming care patients has been especially rewarding. "It's really heart-warming to see how patients who had been uncomfortably in their own bodies now feel happy in their own skin," she said. "I feel really excited to be part of this kind of care."

Daisy agreed that answering patients' questions by fully explaining the options they have is something she always focuses on.

"The point is for the patient to be able to make the choice based on what works in their lives so it's completely their own decision," she said. "I want them to leave with all their questions answered and not to feel judged."

Kendall said the HSS staff work together at the health center is crucial to the patients' experience: "Our (HSSs) are amazing, and they set the tone for the patient's visit. It is incredible to be part of this team."

Love Notes Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

Thank you all so very much for the kindness you've shown my daughter. She felt safe and cared for by the whole staff at Westside (Santa Cruz) during a very difficult time. I am so grateful for all of you – and for the great work that you do.

– Supporter on the Coast

There are many who haven't benefited from medical and educational support. Thank you for assisting those in need and providing them with safety and care.

– Supporter in Sacramento region

Stockton teamwork triumphs after October fire

The fire on the night of October 26 that destroyed part of the Eastland Plaza health center in Stockton posed a difficult challenge to staff who were determined to continue patient care in the community.



Staff at North Stockton health center

Fortunately, no one was in the building at the time of the fire, but the site was temporarily closed for significant repairs and upgrades. PPMM staff in both Stockton health centers had to work quickly together to ensure a smooth transition for local patients who were redirected from Eastland Plaza to North Stockton.

Licia C., center manager at North Stockton, said she's very proud of all staff from both health centers who have become united: "It's really busy here, but we've all grown and laugh together and really come together as a team."

"I am very grateful that we have been able to relocate to North Stockton," Eastland Plaza Center Manager Lisa R. said shortly after the fire. "We have a lot of longtime staff at Eastland Plaza, and our patients are really happy to see the same staff temporarily working at North Stockton."

The Big Picture

PPMM UC-Davis Gen Action Club to present at national conference on child and maternal health



PPMM's Gen Action Club, Students for Reproductive Freedom, at UC-Davis

Students for Reproductive Freedom, PPMM's Gen Action Club at UC-Davis, just got the exciting news that they have been selected to make a short presentation at the national conference of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP), being held this April in Oakland.

The students designed a poster, "Addressing Safer Sex Product Needs on College Campuses," that was chosen to be the subject of a short discussion session when it is displayed at the conference on April 13-16.

The group had already done a deep dive into detailing the need on campus for access to safer-sex supplies and menstrual supplies in an effort to analyze reproductive justice in the University of California system. After conducting a campus poll last year, they found that many students reported difficulties accessing essential products including menstrual pads, tampons, and emergency contraceptives.

In collaboration with Planned Parenthood and Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (URGE), the Students for Reproductive Freedom provided free, anonymous resources to help remedy the access issue on campus.

This kind of innovative work by PPMM Gen Action clubs is an inspiring sign of the future of reproductive freedom and justice work in our communities.

Jan. 29, Politico

Supreme Court sets date for high-stakes abortion pill oral arguments

Jan. 29, New York Times

(op-ed by law professor Mary Ziegler) What Trump Could Do on Abortion in a Second Term

Jan. 26, Truthout

No One's Allowed to Abortion Is Guaranteed – No Matter Where You Live

Good Reads

Support your local Planned Parenthood today!

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