



## OCTOBER 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.

### ULTRASOUND SERVICES IN WACO

To better serve our community and patients in Waco and the surrounding area, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas is expanding access to healthcare with ultrasound services for gestational dating and IUD localization. This resource ensures that patients can access timely, affordable ultrasound services in Central Texas.

Thanks to our supporters, our communities and patients can receive expanded access to the compassionate, high-quality reproductive care Planned Parenthood provides.



Waco Planned Parenthood health center.

### EDUCATION: HONOR AND SUPPORT OUR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

This October, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas celebrates two important dates honoring and supporting the LGBTQ+ community: National Coming Out Day (October 11th) and Spirit Day (October 20th).

National Coming Out Day celebrates the courage, resilience, and authenticity of individuals who have come out as LGBTQ+. This day serves as a reminder that every person's journey is unique, and coming out deserves recognition and support.

Spirit Day, organized by GLAAD, is an international movement against bullying and a show of support for LGBTQ+ youth. On this day, supporters wear purple to symbolize 'spirit' on the rainbow flag in support of LGBTQ+ youth and against bullying.

### TAKE ACTION: THANK YOU SUMMER LEADERS!

The support of our community provides young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn about non-profits first-hand through a Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Public Affairs Leadership program. In supporting community outreach programs, like the Summer Leadership Program, you invest in the next generation of leaders providing them with first-hand experience with planning community events, hosting fundraisers, and strengthening their communication and advocacy skills.

*"I gained a lot of things from this experience, here are a few: how a nonprofit works, how to effectively plan and market an event, how to pull people to our table and provide them with resources, and how to answer questions effectively. Overall, I have loved my time here at Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and am very grateful for the lessons that I have learned. I will take all these lessons into my future career with me."*

— Nibitika Khadka, a Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Summer Leader

### A NEWS CONNECTION

#### **After a decade of state-led attacks, Texas seeks to bankrupt Planned Parenthood.**

As part of a decade-long strategy to close down Planned Parenthood, Texas officials in 2022 sued Planned Parenthood's national organization as well as its state affiliates in federal court for more than \$1.8 billion, claiming it committed Medicaid fraud when it filed reimbursements at a time when the state was seeking to expel the organization from the federal program. **There is no merit to this lawsuit. Planned Parenthood did not commit Medicaid fraud. Period. As a nonprofit, Planned Parenthood follows all local, state and federal laws. This baseless case will only hurt the patients in Texas that need access to what Planned Parenthood's health centers provide: affordable, reproductive healthcare.**

*"We live in a state that bans abortion because of ostensibly pro-life values, but the same people are trying to block treatments that could help pregnant women be safer and healthier. The disconnect has been hard to reconcile."*

— Dr. Amna Dermish, Chief Medical Officer of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

According to the American Cancer Society, detecting breast cancer early and while still localized translates to a five-year survival rate of 99%. Early detection means looking out for changes, scheduling routine clinical breast exams, and getting mammograms when recommended. Your support helps patients in our communities access care, helping to detect breast cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages.

# 22,000

In 2023, an estimated 22,000 Texans will be diagnosed with breast cancer. (cancer.org)

Breast cancer ranks as the leading cancer diagnosis and cancer related cause of death for Hispanic women. (utexas.edu)

# 41%

Black women are 41% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women. Reasons for this health disparity include barriers to healthcare access such as affordability and health center appointments, but the main reason is inadequate health insurance. (cancer.org)

### Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help patients plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and HIV prevention medication.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Let us continue supporting high-quality healthcare services 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 can ensure commitment to high-quality care for all continues for generations ahead.

#### With your gift to Planned Parenthood, our community benefits from:

- Breast and cervical cancer screening for early detection
- Preventative care and education through wellness exams
- Access to birth control, now more important than ever

### EL PASO GIVING DAY 2023

This year Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas celebrates 5 years back in El Paso! El Paso Giving Day is on **October 19**. Early giving starts October 12!

Donating on October 19? Give between 4:00 and 5:00 PM MT to help Planned Parenthood win the \$1,000 Traffic Jam Power Hour prize.

Support essential healthcare. Strengthen the El Paso community. Stand with Planned Parenthood patients – no matter what.

#### 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).

