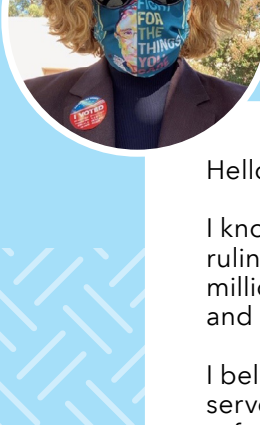


The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



LETTER FROM THE CEO PPMM's commitment in a post-Roe world – and celebrating Pride

Hello Friends,

I know that you join me in feeling devastated and outraged by the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, instantly eliminating a central right to freedom for millions of people in many states across the country. I want to thank you for how strongly and courageously you have responded, thinking of our patients first.

I believe you also join me in feeling determined, not defeated. I am proud that our affiliate serves two states that are steadfastly protecting abortion rights and looking to further safeguard them in the future.

PPMM has staff members serving on Gov. Gavin Newsom's California Future of Abortion Council, which helped craft the package of abortion-rights legislation that is rapidly making its way through the legislature. This will help us to protect our providers and better serve our patients – including people from other states whom the Supreme Court and abortion-ban legislatures have now made second-class citizens in the places where they live.

In addition, there will be a measure on California's November ballot, Prop. 1, that will further strengthen protections for abortion rights – and the right to birth control – in our state constitution. (See my July op-ed in the *San Jose Mercury News*, re-printed at the end of this edition of *The Full Mar Monte*.)

Season of Pride

I have also been thinking about our post-Roe rallying call to "disrupt and fight back" against the appalling injustice of the Supreme Court ruling and state abortion bans, recalling that this was the powerful response of the LGBTQ+ community on June 28, 1969 when New York police violently raided the Stonewall Inn in lower Manhattan.

As many of you know, the spontaneous protests against police intimidation and aggressive force launched the gay liberation movement, and that "disruption" sparked an inspiring crusade for justice as well as a triumph for human rights. PPMM is proud to stand with the LGBTQ+ community, including all our patients and staff, every day as well as during the summer of Pride events that honor inclusion.

The Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe* has not only decimated abortion rights, but it has other far-reaching implications as well, threatening to turn back rights regarding gay marriage, gender affirming health care, and birth control.

What we're doing and what you can do

PPMM will not back down from this fight, and our doors will remain open for all who need us.

If your friends, family members, and people in your networks are asking you how they can help, you can remind them how important it is to vote for candidates who support abortion rights – and for California Prop. 1 in November – as well as continue telling their stories about what abortion care has meant in their lives. We must keep this front and center in the conversation. (Click here, on our web site, to share your story.)

If people are asking you how PPMM is responding right now, you can tell them that we have been preparing for several years by hiring and training more clinicians to provide abortion, integrating abortion care into our regular health center service days/times, and optimizing our relationships with medical schools, residencies, and fellowships to secure the future workforce. We are also prepared to provide 250-500 more abortions per week than we currently do.

With so many freedoms on the line, I could not be prouder to be standing with all of you as we do this work that is now needed more than ever. Our patients need us, and our communities need us.

We will be there for them – and that's because of you.

With deep gratitude,

Stacy

PPMM's first post-Roe webinar a big draw Celebrated abortion-rights advocate and scholar, Prof. Michele Goodwin in conversation with PPMM CEO Stacy Cross

On July 6, we welcomed more than 500 registrants to a webinar, "After the Fall of *Roe*," featuring PPMM President & CEO Stacy Cross in conversation with award-winning author, legal scholar, and social commentator, [Professor Michele B. Goodwin](#), of University of California, Irvine.

One participant echoed the feelings of many who attended when she commented that the program was "insightful, challenging, and hopeful," an honest but inspiring appraisal of the fight ahead.

Professor Goodwin emphasized the importance of PPMM and other abortion providers in safe haven states, where women and other pregnant people from abortion-ban regions will come in order to claim their rights over their own bodies. The danger they face should not be underestimated. She noted, for example, that in Mississippi, a Black woman is 118 times more likely to die by carrying a pregnancy to term than by having an abortion.

PPMM has been preparing for years to serve patients in a post-Roe world, and Stacy described the affiliate's expansion plans, including adding licensed abortion providers, training all qualified staff to provide abortion care, building a new Reno facility that will triple our capacity in that region, and expanding our footprint in existing centers to be ready for the patients who are already finding their way to us. Just last week, one of our health centers provided care to a patient who traveled from Utah, a 17-hour trip each way.

Though the post-Roe landscape threatens millions, Professor Goodwin offered this hope: We are now collectively seeing major threats to our democracy -- such as the rise of white nationalism -- that, just a few years ago, many were unwilling to acknowledge. And one clear aspect of white nationalism is extreme opposition to abortion rights.

"Part of what I see as the hope of today is that there is a clarity about the vulnerability of our institutions, such as our Supreme Court, even our Congress and Presidency, and why it is important to fight and hold on," she said.

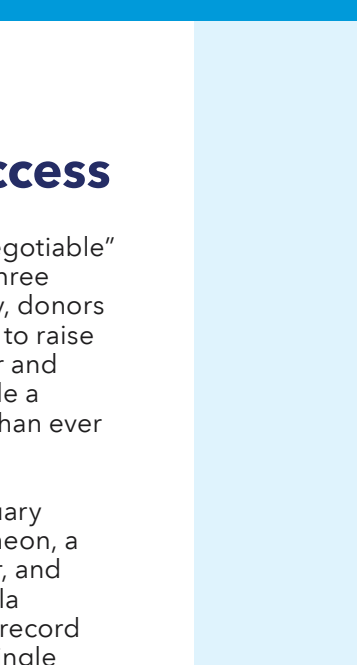
In conclusion, the professor reminded us of Harriet Tubman's heroism and legacy, illustrating that it is in the darkest times "we can best see the stars, the moon, and the pathways to freedom."

In her closing, Stacy encouraged webinar participants to find hope in the emerging generations of new reproductive health activists. She challenged us to continue to **VOTE, DONATE, and DISRUPT**, with suggestions for action that are also on our website [ppmarmonte.org/fightback](#).

Please read Prof. Michele Goodwin's most recent New York Times essay here: [No, Justice Alito, Reproductive Justice Is in the Constitution.](#)



Professor Michele B. Goodwin
Chancellor's Professor,
U.C. Irvine



Stacy Cross
PPMM President & CEO

Donors make our series of 2022 fundraising events a sensational success



With the "Access Is Non-Negotiable" 2022 Virtual Event Series, three events from January to May, donors led our Development team to raise more money, reach a larger and wider audience, and provide a more diverse event series than ever before at PPMM.

The series launched in January with the *Roe v. Wade* Luncheon, a poignant occasion this year, and continued with the Peninsula Breakfast, which broke the record for most funds raised in a single event at PPMM -- more than \$1.5 million! The virtual programs concluded in May with the Capital Dinner, celebrating the 50th anniversary of PP in Reno.

We registered more than 1,500 people, engaging donors, volunteers, and community partners in our most successful event series to date. And we could not have produced it without the collaboration from many colleagues across all departments -- or without our generous donors!

The Patient Services team gave our event audience an insider's view, with health center staff on camera talking about the care they provide every day and how we are expanding that care in a post-Roe world. PPMM Education worked with us to create three unique pre-recorded program segments, sharing the Youth Designer (Y-LED) and Youth Participatory Action Research project, PromotorX Salinas, and the launch of the Digital Learning Experiences with our donors.

Our Public Affairs colleagues helped us acknowledge some of our elected champions, shared their local coalition-building work in Visalia, explained what a reproductive freedom state is, and marked an anniversary with local staff and supporters.

Our VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion also spoke with us about how our affiliate's DEI initiatives align with mission and values of providing "care, no matter what."

Of course, the event series could never have been the incredible success it was without our amazing donors and supporters whose commitment continues to inspire us every day. Thank you!

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.

Putting patients at the center of the visit: RN Sabrina, RN Trainer Morgan

Here's what a patient said about RN Sabrina and RN Trainer Morgan after a recent visit to the Coliseum health center in Oakland:

"Everyone was very kind and welcoming. The medical staff, Morgan and Sabrina, were helpful and patient with my high anxiety, affecting blood pressure readings. Morgan and Sabrina were also excellent during the injection demo and answered my questions to ease my mind."

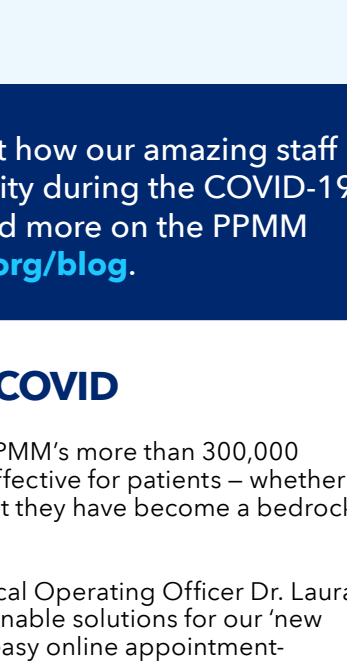
RN Sabrina says she first focuses on the patient sitting in front of her, before the reason they came in. "I try not to think of them as a 'diagnosis' or an 'appointment,'" Sabrina said. "I want to get to know them, as humans."

She said that spending extra time asking and listening about more than only why the person made their appointment is very helpful when it comes to finding the best solution. "Allowing the patient to elaborate more on their symptoms gives them more time and space to talk and opens up trust," she said.

RN Trainer Morgan wants patients to feel comfortable right away and leave the appointment feeling not only better, but "confident, educated, and informed."

After reading the response of a recent patient who appreciated the way she and Sabrina showed them how to do a self-injection of medication, Morgan said she saw the experience as an excellent opportunity: "I believe this was a patient who was getting a gender affirming hormone therapy. This could be a situation where we were their only supporters through this care. It is so important for patients to feel that we are on their side and really want to help."

Working in this sort of partnership is one of the things that Sabrina also likes best about her job. "It is such a motivating experience for me to have these meaningful connections with patients and with my co-workers," she said. "It makes me feel such a sense of community."



RN Trainer Morgan (left)
and RN Sabrina



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](#).



Dr. Laura Dalton,
Chief Medical Operating Officer

PPMM telehealth care, beyond COVID

More than two years into the COVID pandemic, PPMM's more than 300,000 telehealth visits have proved so convenient and effective for patients – whether appointments are onscreen or on the phone – that they have become a bedrock of the care we provide.

"We're not going back to 2019," PPMM Chief Medical Operating Officer Dr. Laura Dalton said. "We're enhancing and creating sustainable solutions for our 'new normal,'" with centralized telehealth services and easy online appointment scheduling."

That's good news for the many patients who have told our health care staff over the past 50 months how much they have appreciated being able to and receive the care they rely on without having to come in to a health center -- and from the comfort of home.

"We have challenged the notion that telehealth only improves access to patients in rural communities," Dr. Dalton added. "There is plenty of evidence that patients in urban settings also benefit from telehealth-access, including those who aren't able to take time off work or can't get child care."

PPMM's telehealth has also meant patients can receive prescriptions for hormonal contraception, gender affirming hormone therapy, and behavioral health just as easily as if they came in to a health center. This is the "new normal."

Love Notes Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

I drive by the PP on El Camino Real (in Redwood City) almost every day. I often wondered about you, how you are doing, what I can do to support you in your brave efforts.

When the Supreme Court draft decision was leaked, I thought about bringing flowers or coffee to your door, but I wasn't sure if it could be accepted. It's hard to know what to do now and how to not be paralyzed by fear and hopelessness.

What I do know is how grateful I am to live in the great state of California and how appreciative I am for your presence and dedication in our neighborhood. Saying thank you is not enough, but I hope this small note of gratitude makes its way to the staff and employees of the health center in Redwood City. Keep up the fight and know you are not alone.

– Supporter from Atherton, CA

Recently, I lost my insurance. I paid out of pocket for an (appointment) after I experienced some symptoms.

At the (PP health center), staff were very kind. I liked that I was handed laminated copies of forms I would later sign. Staff pointed to things on my chart – like asking, "Did you get these results?" I thought this was respectful and showed care toward confidentiality.

Audrey removed and replaced my IUD. She was friendly and calm, and told me what she was doing as she did it. Occasionally I thought she could read my mind...because she offered (to explain something) about a moment before I would have asked.

I feel like they removed the whole taboo nature of sexuality and made it seem positive, healthy, normal, and accessible. I was asked if I wanted condoms as I left, which is awesome.

I am intensely grateful for your kindness, answering my questions, and helping me keep my reproductive freedom during a time where I need it most.

Despite the pain of having an IUD removed and replaced, I think this might have been the single most positive clinical visit I have ever had. I had entered, ready to defend myself and argue about why I didn't want children or explain why I wanted STI tests. Instead, I was met with so much friendliness and care. You are all doing amazing work, and thank you again.

– Excerpted from a letter sent by a Sacramento-area patient

The Big Picture

PPMM Public Affairs partners with our communities in Pride

The summer season of Pride kicked off in June, and PPMM's Public Affairs team joined members and supporters of the LGBTQ+ community for celebrations, from Sacramento to Lodi to Santa Cruz and Fresno.

Public Affairs Director of Operations Patsy, who was also a member of this year's Fresno Pride event planning committee, had this report from Fresno:

The Fresno Pride Parade & Festival for 32 years. This year, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID 19, the planning committee was thrilled to be back in person.

The 2022 Fresno event was also a memorial to its co-founder, Jeffery Robinson – known as the Gay Mayor of Fresno. Jeffery helped launch the festival when he was a young social work student, understanding the importance of the LGBTQ+ people being "seen" in their community. Early this spring we lost Jeffery, who suffered a heart attack on his final work day before retirement. The event planning committee members were heartbroken, but pledged to make 2022's PRIDE the grandest ever, as a tribute to Jeffery.

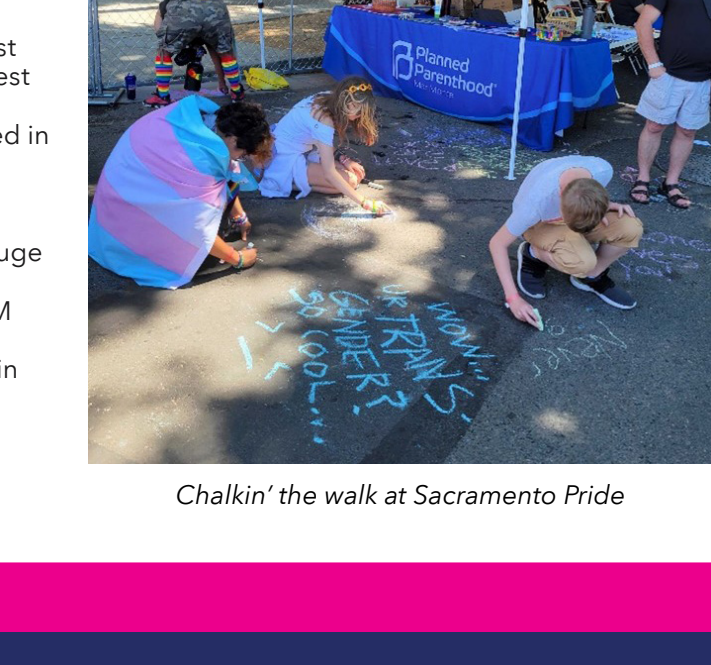
With support of the Fresno City Council, Fresno City College, and other major sponsors, the event on June 4th welcomed almost 11,000 people, including over 150 vendors at the Parade & Festival. It was the largest Pride event in the Central Valley.

The following Friday, Fresno held its second annual progressive Pride flag-raising celebration at City Hall and dedicated it to Jeffery. Planned Parenthood Mar Monte was also honored at the event for its dedication to being an essential health care provider for non-binary & LGBTQ+ people.

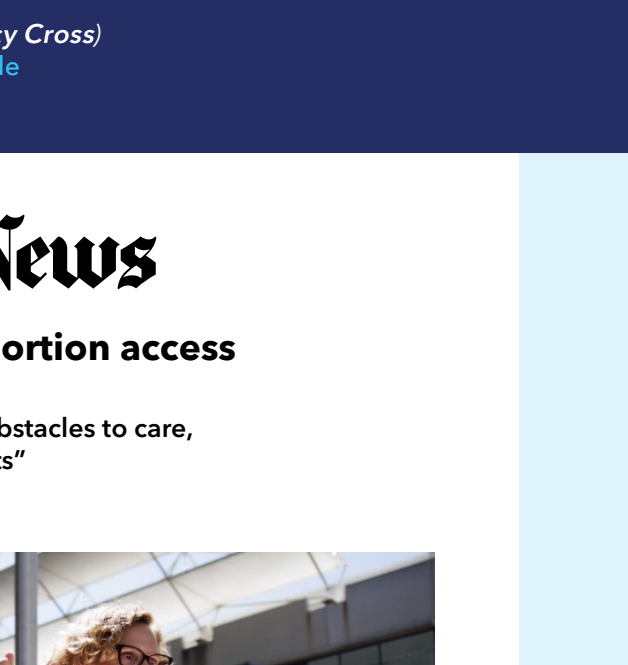
Public Affairs Silicon Valley/Coast Director Dianna had this report from the Pride event in Santa Cruz:

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte was proud to host a booth at Santa Cruz Pride and Festival, the largest LGBTQ+ event on the Central Coast and the third oldest annual Pride Parade and Festival celebrated in California.

Despite the rain, Santa Cruz Pride, which has continued annually since its start in 1975, was a huge success with more than 3,000 participants. As an unwavering ally of the LGBTQ+ community, PPMM was honored to be a partner in this year's Santa Cruz Pride and continue our mission of investing in communities.



PPMMers at the Fresno Pride parade in June



Chalkin' the walk at Sacramento Pride

Good Reads

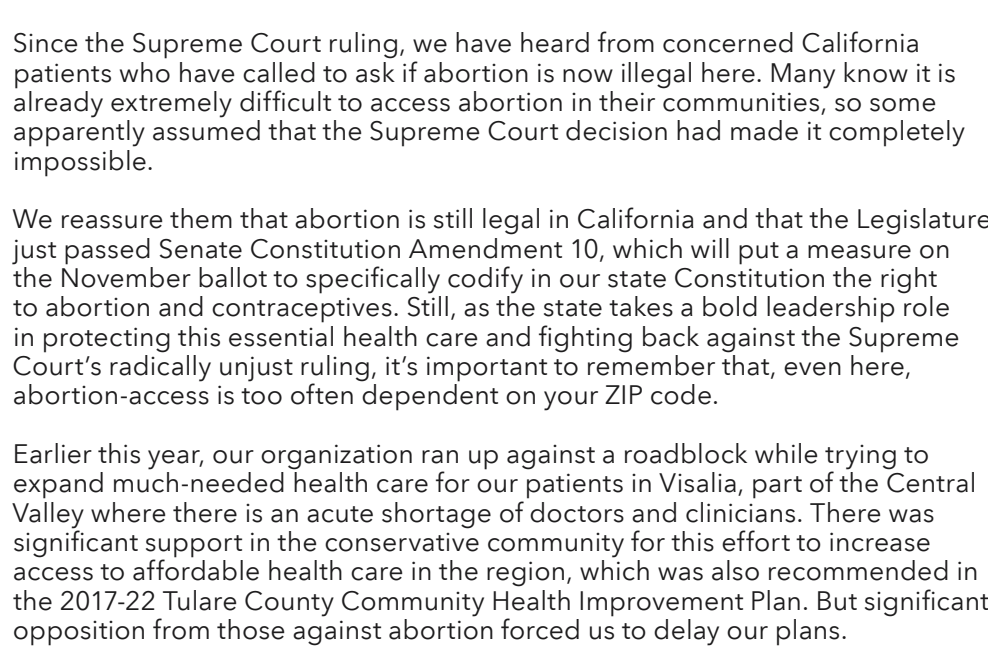
June 26, Santa Cruz Lookout (op-ed by PPMM Clinician [Jessica Dieseldorff](#))
One Friday in the new, post-Roe America: How losing abortion access changes us all

July 2, San Jose Mercury News (op-ed by PPMM CEO [Stacy Cross](#))
Even in California, abortion access depends on your ZIP code

The Mercury News Opinion: Even in California, abortion access depends on your ZIP code

In a state where many assume there are no obstacles to care, thousands of patients live in "abortion deserts"

BY STACY CROSS | JULY 2, 2022



Stacy Cross, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, speaks during a June 24 press conference in San Jose opposing the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Months before the U.S. Supreme Court's catastrophic decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, our Planned Parenthood Mar Monte health centers in Silicon Valley and the East Bay were seeing patients from states that already had made access to abortion virtually impossible.

But for years we have also been seeing thousands of patients from "abortion deserts" in a state where many assume there are no obstacles to receiving this care – California.

Some of our abortion care coordinators, including at our Oakland health center, often arrange appointments for patients who have been unable to find any in the California regions where they live. And, like many patients in abortion-ban states who have recently crossed state lines to access care, many of our Central Valley patients have been forced to take a day off work, find child care and drive more than 100 miles round trip to get an abortion in their own reproductive-freedom state.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, we have heard from concerned California patients who have called to ask if abortion is now illegal here. Many know it is already extremely difficult to access abortion in their communities, so some apparently assumed that the Supreme Court decision had made it completely impossible.

We reassure them that abortion is still legal in California and that the Legislature just passed Senate Constitution Amendment 10, which will put a measure on the November ballot to specifically codify in our state Constitution the right to abortion and contraceptives. Still, as the state takes a bold leadership role in protecting this essential health care and fighting back against the Supreme Court's radically unjust ruling, it's important to remember that, even here, abortion-access is too often dependent on your ZIP code.

Earlier this year, our organization ran up against a roadblock while trying to expand much-needed health care for our patients in Visalia, part of the Central Valley where there is an acute shortage of doctors and clinicians. There was significant support in the conservative community for this effort to increase access to affordable health care in the region, which was also recommended in the 2017-22 Tulare County Community Health Improvement Plan. But significant opposition from those against abortion forced us to delay our plans.

While we remain committed to expanding health care in Visalia, for now those who live there still have no access to abortion care within about 50 miles.

We have been preparing for increased demand by contracting with additional abortion providers and training more clinicians to provide aspiration abortions in health centers, especially at major transportation hubs such as San Jose and Oakland. We have also optimized training partnerships with medical schools, residencies and fellowships as an investment in future abortion providers.

Right now, we are prepared to serve 250-500 more abortion patients every week – and that is not only for patients who come here from outside California.

I am very proud to be in a state that's passing critical legislation to protect the right to abortion and those who provide it. But it is just as crucial that Californians continue to talk about the importance of abortion as health care, tell their personal stories of what it has meant in their lives and vote for the ballot measure this fall that will cement rights to abortion – and birth control – in our state Constitution.

You will not only be standing up for people from states where abortion rights have suddenly disappeared, you will also be helping your California neighbors who need and deserve equal access.

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