

March Connections

Welcome to the March edition of the 2022 Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas monthly newsletter. As a valued supporter, we would like to share the latest updates on the work you make possible at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.



KNOW YOURSELF

Knowing yourself is important when it comes to taking care of your sexual health. Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas launched a new campaign to increase awareness and treatment for vaginal and urinary tract infections. Sexual healthcare IS healthcare. Shame, stigma, stress, or misinformation should not get in the way of taking care of your body, and that includes treating sexually transmitted infections, urinary tract infections, and vaginal infections.



AUSTIN TEEN COUNCIL IS TAKING APPLICATIONS

Do you know an Austin teen who would like to be a leader among their peer group? Invite them to apply to Planned Parenthood's Teen Council. Teen Council is a year-long peer sex education program for Austin area teens in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. Teen council members are diverse and come to the group with different beliefs and viewpoints. No one is expected to already know about sexual health and prevention issues and it is a safe place to learn about sexual health. Teen Council members serve as volunteer educators on various topics, like consent, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and birth control methods, and build their knowledge and skills.



A NEWS CONNECTION

Gardasil (the vaccine to prevent HPV-related cancers), has been available since 2006, however the national rate of vaccinated American adolescents is only 59%. In Texas, this rate hovers between 50-60%.

According to the Boston Scope, "as this first generation to grow up with the HPV vaccine reaches adulthood, experts agree: It's a time for reckoning in America. There is a whole generation of people for whom this cancer-prevention measure would be hugely beneficial – even if it is later in life."

TEXAS ABORTION BAN – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Texas Health and Human Services released new statistics showing that the number of abortions reported in Texas decreased almost 60% in the first month after the statewide abortion ban (SB 8) went into effect.

"Every day that this devastating abortion ban remains in place means more Texans are denied the ability to determine when and how to become a parent along with increasing risk of poverty and negative health and educational outcomes. It is unconscionable that thousands of Texans continue to be forced to travel hundreds of miles out of state to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and other farther states to access their fundamental right to safe, legal abortion. Last September, Planned Parenthood health centers in surrounding states saw a 1082% increase in patients with Texas zip codes seeking abortion compared to September 2019 and 2020."

- Autumn Keiser, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas spokesperson

TAKE ACTION

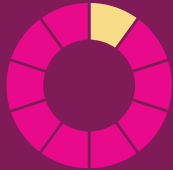
Urge Senators to Pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) - the vote could come any day! WHPA would protect the right to abortion throughout the United States and would grant people equitable access to abortion and other essential healthcare, guard against dangerous abortion bans, and other medically unnecessary abortion restrictions being pushed forward by state politicians. No matter what happens in the courts or in other state legislatures, it is essential that the Senate pass the Women's Health Protection Act.

**GET INVOLVED,
TAKE ACTION**
WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER TEXAS

March is Endometriosis Awareness Month

Endometriosis is a condition where tissue similar to the kind that normally lines the inside of the uterus grows outside of the uterus and can cause discomfort and pain. Endometriosis affects about 1 in 10 women of reproductive age and is a leading cause of infertility. Endometriosis can be treated with birth control.

- **\$525** - Provides 3 patients with a wellness exam
- **28,649** - In 2021, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas prescribed 28,649 packs of birth control pills, enabling patients to take power over their reproductive health.



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Endometriosis can be treated with hormonal birth control.

Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help Texans plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and PrEP and PEP.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

"I am thankful for Planned Parenthood because I do not have any insurance and could not afford to get medical care. Planned Parenthood helped me become less stressed knowing I could get help and afford the cost."

- Cheyenne, a Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas patient

JOIN US FOR OUR FORT WORTH EVENT

We hope you will join us at Bass Hall for an evening of mission-focused inspiration and education in support of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas.

We are thrilled to feature a moderated conversation with Jennifer Palmieri, author of the #1 New York Times best seller *Dear Madam President* and her newest book, *She Proclaims: Our Declaration of Independence from a Man's World*.

AN EVENING WITH
**PLANNED
PARENTHOOD
FORT WORTH
2022**

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

BASS PERFORMANCE HALL
525 COMMERCE ST
FORT WORTH, TX 76102

WAYS TO GIVE

Would you like to continue supporting high-quality healthcare services and sex education programs for generations to come? Contact Shawn Wills, Chief Development Officer, at (214) 363-3505 or shawn.wills@ppgt.org if you want to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood can ensure your commitment to high-quality care for all continues.

Your gift of:

- 📄 **\$1,000** provides one patient with a long-acting reversible contraceptive, preventing an unintended pregnancy
- 📄 **\$500** offers five patients peace of mind with emergency contraception and health education resources
- 📄 **\$100** keeps communities healthy through the distribution of 500 condoms
- 📄 **\$30** prevents unintended pregnancies through one month of birth control

If you have a question or if you want to learn more, please contact the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or email us at development@ppgt.org.

