



in
this
together



Letter from PPMM CEO Stacy Cross

Dear friends,



I often say we're "in this together," and at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte our amazing staff work closely together to provide care during this devastating time for reproductive rights across the country.

We are also in this with our patients, whether they come to PPMM for cancer screening or arrive at your local health center from another state for abortion care.

And we're in this with you. You and your neighbors work to protect access where you live – donating, volunteering, and voting to ensure our doors stay open.

The theme of working together to serve our patients and fight for reproductive rights appears throughout this newsletter.

You want to hear from patients who rely on us, so we're sharing their stories, on page 2.

Because you ask us to clarify what you're hearing in the news about abortion restrictions, we are providing an update about the fate of the widely used abortion medication, mifepristone on page 6.

Your support has expanded access to health care, especially abortion care. Turn to page 8 to read about how you're helping make that happen.

Turn to the back cover if you want to get more involved, and go to the survey link to tell us what you'd like to read in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for being "in this together" with PPMM's staff, patients, and fellow supporters.

With you by our side, we provide compassionate care, comprehensive educational programs, support, and protection for our patients and communities.

Stacy

Stacy Cross
President & CEO

Patients accessing care



You keep our doors open for them.

Since a draconian abortion ban in Texas went into effect in September 2021, we began seeing abortion patients from out of state. Then, the following year, *Roe* was overturned.

We now see four times more out-of-state abortion patients than we did previously. And your support has ensured that the doors at PPMM, your local Planned Parenthood, are open for anyone who needs us.

We overcame significant challenges to ensure that we can accommodate out-of-state abortion patients. Clinical staff often have little notice before they are needed at a different PPMM health center to provide abortion care for those who can't afford to stay overnight and must return to their home state.

Because of these extremely time-sensitive logistics, caring for one out-of-state patient at PPMM is equivalent to caring for 20 in-state patients.

"We have patients who have scheduled a medication abortion and arrive at their appointment telling us they have to be back on a plane in two hours to an abortion-ban state," Dr. Laura Dalton, PPMM Chief Medical Operating Officer, said. "We often have to change plans and perform a procedural abortion."

Our health centers also frequently need more staff to help coordinate care for some out-of-state patients and connect them to outside resources. Thanks to you, we can do this for our patients.



Here are a few of their stories:

A young pregnant woman with no access to abortion care needed to end her pregnancy to have surgery for a complex heart condition.

Philanthropic funds covered her abortion procedure, and PPMM staff provided her with the care she needed, so she did not have to further delay her surgery.

A mother of three was on her own, with little income, after her partner left her when he found out she was pregnant. Unable to support her family, she wanted to end her pregnancy.

She had no access to abortion in her state. But she reached out to PPMM and was approved for philanthropic funds to help afford her procedure.

When she got the news, she burst into tears and said, “You are my angels during this hard time, and I will be forever grateful to PPMM.”

One patient with a child and no permanent home wanted to end her pregnancy in her abortion-ban state. Her job wasn’t paying her enough to afford her living expenses. Meanwhile, she was in court to settle a domestic violence case – all while attending school to build a better future.

When she called PPMM and was told that philanthropic funds would cover part of her care, she was overcome with relief.

Another young patient came to us, fearing retaliation from her father if he discovered that she was pregnant and seeking an abortion. She was under extreme pressure to conceal her pregnancy and find enough money to get to another state for abortion care.

Philanthropic 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. ■

Mifepristone update

In March, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case about the fate of mifepristone, the first of a two-part drug regimen used by most PPMM abortion patients and more than half of U.S. abortion patients.

In 2023, an anti-abortion federal judge in Texas ruled to severely restrict access to mifepristone, though it has had an exemplary safety record since the FDA approved it 23 years ago.

The glimmer of hope is the Supreme Court will not be looking at the legality of FDA's approval. Also, mifepristone studies that the Texas federal judge had based much of his ruling on were retracted in February as being seriously flawed.

But, if the judge's ruling is upheld, significant restrictions to access would still pose risks.

"The standard of care, evidence-based practice, and the thing that's the best and most effective for our patients is under threat," PPMM Chief Medical Operating Officer Dr. Laura Dalton, said.

Plaintiffs in the case are zealots determined to make abortion illegal nationwide. The Supreme Court will likely rule in June and may restrict access by mail, tele-health, and the gestation period when someone can take mifepristone. If that happens, even states like California and Nevada, where abortion rights are protected, would not be able to provide access to the medication.

For now, mifepristone remains legal in states that protect abortion rights, including at all PPMM health centers.

Your gift today will help ensure we are here for patients who need us, no matter what. Use the enclosed envelope or go to ppmarmonte.org/donate-today. ■



Oakland health center

Opening later this year

With you by our side, we opened our new, much larger Northern Nevada health center late last year. And we will be relocating the Oakland center to a downtown site that's far more accessible to thousands of patients, in a community that has acute need for our services.

Staff from the current Coliseum site in Oakland will move to the new 12,000 square-foot health center, with 19 exam rooms, that will open in December.

Directly across from BART and on major bus routes, this site will also be easily accessible from the Oakland airport.

- The new center will provide the same services as the current Coliseum site – including contraception, testing/treatment for STIs, and abortion care.
- It will be a clinician-training hub for many PPMM health centers. PPMM's abortion-training program is extensive, including training our advanced practice clinicians and physicians; comprehensive training for medical residents and fellows in OB-GYN; and family medicine.
- In the lab at the new Oakland health center, we will likely run 120 tests or more per day, including pregnancy tests, urinalysis, and rapid HIV.
- The health center will honor the community by featuring Bay Area muralist Jessica Sabogal's art.

Training we provide in Oakland will also benefit other communities that are now losing the ability to train abortion providers due to abortion bans in their states. PPMM is partnering with many academic institutions out of state and in state, to provide training, including Stanford, the University of California Davis, and the University of California San Francisco, and we have partnered with Medical Students for Choice across the country.

MORE TO COME: We plan to open several new health centers across our affiliate in the next two years. Interested in learning more and supporting this work? Use the enclosed envelope or go to ppmarmonte.org/donate-today.

(Left) Mural concept for the Oakland admin space by Jessica Sabogal

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW

1. Donate

You can make a donation today to support PPMM's mission: ppmarmonte.org/donate-today or call us at 408.795.3780

2. Join the fight forever

You can join the fight to protect sexual and reproductive health care - forever - by including PPMM in your will or trust at ppmarmonte.org/legacy

3. We're hiring caring professionals

Join our team and make an impact on your career and your community. Attend our monthly PPMM Careers Webinar to learn about job opportunities and help us spread the word by sharing our career opportunities with your network. Go to ppmmcareers.org

4. Volunteer

Join hundreds of volunteers across PPMM who support our mission daily: ppmarmonte.org/volunteer

5. We want to hear from you

We've put together a short survey to get to know you better, improve our communications, and understand what motivates you to invest in your community through PPMM. We hope you will share your thoughts. Go to ppmarmonte.org/donorsurvey

To receive future editions of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte News in a digital format, sign up at ppmarmonte.org/newsletter



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