

## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

Despite the continuous attacks on reproductive rights across the nation, Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal) continues to forge ahead.

Unfortunately, additional threats to reproductive care remain on the horizon. The Supreme Court announced that it will take on a case about abortion for the first time since President Trump nominated two justices to the Supreme Court. The court will be reviewing an abortion restriction in Louisiana nearly identical to one struck down by the Supreme Court in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* three years ago. In *Whole Woman's Health*, the Supreme Court decided that laws like this had no purpose other than to make abortion access more difficult.

By granting review of this case, the Supreme Court is agreeing to reconsider its own decision – and if the court allows this Louisiana law to stand, it will be breaking with its own precedent and dismantling constitutional protections to abortion access. This case could decide the future of abortion access in this country.

These attacks serve as a reminder that access to safe and legal abortion is not guaranteed. Our freedoms and rights are at stake. While this is disheartening news, it is important to not get distracted from our local work. PPNorCal is strong and we'll continue to fulfill our mission, no matter what!

Your continued support and belief in us is much appreciated.



In Solidarity,



**Gilda Gonzales**  
President & CEO  
Planned Parenthood Northern California



### San Francisco Flagship Update

We are thrilled to announce that development is underway on PPNorCal's future San Francisco Flagship Health Center. This major step forward was made possible by your generous donations to our Capital Campaign, which was launched in 2015. We'll start serving patients at 1522 Bush Street next fall. Our vision of creating an open, beautiful, safe space for our patients is becoming a reality—thanks to our fierce supporters!

# FEATURE STORY

## Veterans for Planned Parenthood



Support for Planned Parenthood comes in a variety of ways – one of our Board Members, recently shared this special encounter:

“Several years ago, two women arranged to have a regular Wednesday bridge game at the community center in Yountville to attract retirees from the California Veterans Home. A ‘bridging the gap’ between the town and the Vets. I play in it most Wednesdays as does Norm.

Norm first worked at the Guttmacher Institute. Later he was the director of Planned Parenthood Houston and then director of Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. While in that role, they began the first vasectomy clinic at a Planned Parenthood in the US. Norm also consulted Norman Lear on the controversial episodes regarding abortion and vasectomies on the groundbreaking 1970s TV series *Maude*.

I worried a bit about whether the hot pink ‘I stand with Planned Parenthood’ shirt was too much for one of the nation’s veterans. It was not. Norm pulled off his other shirt immediately and put on the pink one.”

-Prentiss Willson, PPNorCal Board Member

## WHAT’S NEW AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**WHAT:** Transgender care is offered at PPNorCal. This includes gender-affirming hormone provision and patient-centered transgender and non-binary care.

**WHERE:** PPNorCal provides hormone therapy initiation at 7 of its 18 health centers, including Clearlake, Ukiah, Chico, and Eureka. We began offering hormone therapy initiation at a few centers of excellence in 2013, and the list of centers of excellence expanded in 2019 to include Chico and Eureka. Transgender and non-binary care is provided at all 18 locations.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** Transgender care is crucial because we know that one of the most significant medical risks LGBTQ+ people face is avoidance of routine health care. Increasing access for non-binary people in rural and traditionally underserved communities is especially important.



## Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): Important Facts

### Did you know?

- STI – is the same as STD – sexually transmitted disease
- Sexually transmitted infection rates at 25-year high
- California's increasing STI rates are a public health crisis
- California leads the nation in gonorrhea, chlamydia, congenital syphilis
- Planned Parenthood CA affiliates were among the first to recognize and react to the STI epidemic

### Goals:

- Increase the number of people in California who are tested and treated for STIs
- Use digital marketing and events to teach young people about the prevalence of STIs and how to have safer sex
- Educate politicians and other decision makers about the STI crisis

### Early Results:

PPNorCal proactively and intentionally increased screening to address the STI epidemic. We noted a sharp increase in testing at all centers, especially syphilis testing which increased almost 200% from last year and treatment of nearly 400 syphilis infections. We are proud to continue addressing this public health crisis.

### Possibilities of why STI rates are increasing:

- Lack of government funding
- Decreased condom use
- Increased access to sex partners (i.e. dating apps)
- Increased use of long-acting, reversible contraception
- Lack of education
- Health disparities



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Women4Good Panel

On October 3, PPNorCal joined Women4Good and PATH for a panel discussion focused on reproductive health and rights domestically and internationally. Dialogue highlighted the many ways individuals are still denied vital services and barred from access to necessary information regarding their reproductive health and rights. Some of these barriers include stigma, cultural traditions, restrictive policies, and lack of funding. The evening was filled with inspiring dialogue and great energy.



*Empowered women empower women*



# HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

## Patient Escorts

PPNorCal's Public Affairs team launched a new Patient Escort Program at the Walnut Creek Health Center. A similar program is already in existence at the Napa Health Center. The Public Affairs team, along with health center staff have been working to increase the number of patient escorts during the current 40 Days for Life opposition protests that continue through November 3.

Patient escorts serve as welcoming faces for patients and staff as they enter and exit our health centers. Our Walnut Creek center is still in need of volunteers, interested? Please email [volunteer@ppnorcal.org](mailto:volunteer@ppnorcal.org).



## Sweets, Sex, and Politics

This fall the PPNorCal Action Fund held two *Sweets, Sex, and Politics* fundraisers in Humboldt and San Francisco which raised \$45,000 for PPNorCal Action Fund and VOTE Planned Parenthood Northern California's political advocacy work. Planned Parenthood-themed baked goods were auctioned off to support the PPNorCal Action Fund, which educates, protects, and expands access to critical reproductive health care.



# HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

## Young Women's Conference



On October 11, PPNorCal, Senator Scott Wiener, and the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women hosted the annual Young Women's Conference for high school cis girls, trans-girls, non-binary youth, gender non-conforming youth, gender queer youth, and any girl identified youth. The keynote for this event was California's first Surgeon General, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris and included several workshops around consent, finances, healthy relationships, and self-care.



### Cheat Sheet: Gender Terms

**Cis** = Your gender identity and your biological sex characteristics match what was assigned at birth.

**Non-binary** = people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as falling outside the categories of man and woman.

**Gender non-conforming** = people whose gender expression is different from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity.

**Gender queer** = A "queer" gender may fall outside of, fall in between, or fluctuate among the binary gender categories of man and woman.

**Trans** = people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - JOIN US!

ACTS *of*  
COURAGE

SAVE THE DATE!  
Thursday, February 27, 2020  
Bimbo's 365 Nightclub  
San Francisco

 Planned Parenthood  
Care. No matter what.  
Planned Parenthood Northern California

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHEN I GIVE?

## Planned Parenthood Northern California and Planned Parenthood Federation of America

We are often asked what happens when you give to Planned Parenthood Northern California versus the Federation. We wanted to share with you the following guide to avoid any possible confusion.

If you want to give to [Planned Parenthood Northern California](#) directly, and have all of your gift go to local health care and education services to better the lives of people across 20 counties in Northern California...

then you need to go to our affiliate website ([support.ppnorcal.org](http://support.ppnorcal.org)) where 100% of your donation is directed to services right here, in Northern California.

If you go to Planned Parenthood Federation of America's national website...

then only 50% of your gift will support health services and education here in Northern California and the other 50% of your gift will support national advocacy and education efforts.

Two ways to support our mission to protect health care, education, and justice. No matter what!



Support Planned Parenthood Northern California! Make an appointment online, connect to community, and get involved!



Planned Parenthood Northern California



Regional Offices:

2185 Pacheco Street, Concord, CA 94520  
1650 Valencia St, San Francisco, CA 94110  
3225 Timber Fall Court Suite B, Eureka, CA 95503

[www.ppnorcal.org](http://www.ppnorcal.org)