MARCH 2024

CONNECTIONS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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 you make possible at Planned Parenthood.



#### **EDUCATION: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**



This Women's History Month, we honor Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey, three enslaved Black women whose stories have been erased from the narrative of medical progress. In the 19th century, they endured unspeakable suffering in the name of "science," forced to undergo unethical gynecological experiments without anesthesia or consent. While their names remain unknown to many, their contributions to the field of gynecology are undeniable.

While J. Marion Sims was lauded as the "father of gynecology," it was Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey whose bodies served as his unwilling test subjects, enduring agonizing

procedures, paving the way for advancements in women's healthcare without recognition or their rightful place in history.

Sexual and reproductive health educators have a responsibility to amplify voices that have been silenced and spark conversations around healthcare inequities. Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas hosts workshops on healthcare history, the Women's Rights movement, and the on-going fight for equity in healthcare.

#### TAKE ACTION

The Texas Primary is coming up in Texas and it is important that we all make our voices heard! Pledge to vote and urge friends and family to get to the polls this election. Important dates to know:



- March 1–last day of early voting for TX Primary
- March 5–Texas Primary Election Day

#### **AMPLIFY AUSTIN**

Amplify Austin is March 6-7 6:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Visit our Amplify Austin page and make your gift to support Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, early giving is open now!



Our power hour is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 12-1 PM. During this hour, your gift could go even further.

## A NEWS CONNECTION: SCOTUS SET TO HEAR MIFEPRISTONE CASE IN MARCH

#### Research cited in abortion pill mifepristone case has been retracted.

The retracted study was cited three times by federal judge Matthew Kaczmarek in Amarillo, Texas who issued a nationwide ban on mifepristone last spring and declared that the FDA improperly approved the drug 23 years ago. His ruling has been blocked pending a hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### Reviewers found that:

"The studies demonstrate a lack of scientific rigor that invalidates or renders unreliable the authors' conclusions. It also noted that most of the authors on the paper worked for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the research arm of anti-abortion lobbying group Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America."

Oral arguments for this case are scheduled at the U.S. Supreme Court for March 26th. This ruling would further jeopardize abortion access for millions of Americans if upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.



### March is Endometriosis Awareness Month

Endometriosis is a condition where tissue that normally lines the inside of the uterus grows outside of the uterus and can cause discomfort and pain. Donor support enables Planned Parenthood patients to access affordable birth control options to manage endometriosis.

- Endometriosis can be treated with hormonal birth control.
- Endometriosis affects about 1 in 10 people of reproductive age and is the leading cause of infertility.
- **33,026** Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas prescribed 33,026 packets of birth control pills as of October 2023, enabling patients to take power over their reproductive health.

# Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help patients plan and space their pregnancies and manage endometriosis and other conditions.



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



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

#### **ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS: OUR SHARED MISSION**

Endometriosis affects an estimated 10% of women of reproductive age. Diagnosis and treatment for Black women is often delayed due to systemic barriers to healthcare and implicit bias.

From emergency contraception to prevent an unintended pregnancy to treating health conditions like endometriosis and polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), contraception is an essential healthcare resource. The Planned Parenthood Direct app ensures access to birth control is quick and simple. Community support ensures our patients can access emergency contraception, birth control pills, the patch, or the ring delivered directly to their home or nearby pharmacy.



#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

Support high-quality healthcare and sex education programs. Please get in touch with us today at **development@ppgt.org** or **214-254-3017** to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood ensures high-quality healthcare for generations ahead.

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.







