

FEATURE STORY

Raising care to an Epic level!

Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal) is proud to announce that we are the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the nation to go live on Epic. Epic is a fully integrated EHR (electronic health record) system and is the most widely used in the US. Our new system will enhance efficiency, reporting and data analytics, and, most importantly, patient care. Epic improves patient care coordination, enhances standardized workflows, and offers better provider-to-patient communication.

PPNorCal believes in equitable patient-centered care and innovation to make our services more accessible, inclusive, and affordable for all. We are thrilled to elevate our overall patient-experience through new features offered by Epic, including open scheduling for new patients and appointment reminders via text messaging. These enhancements will make the patient experience more personalized and efficient.

Furthermore, our health center workflow will improve through tools such as secure collaboration and information sharing between clinicians, quick access to patient records through the MyChart application, and seamless integration across all functional areas. PPNorCal will be an even more attractive and competitive health care option for patients seeking care and clinicians seeking employment. We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last few months!



Pictured above: San Rafael team on their first go-live day.

In May, nearly 4,000 visits were booked in Epic and patients are now active on MyChart and receiving text reminders.

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

This past year, PPNorCal stood strong alongside our communities as we all coped with economic instability, social unrest, the coronavirus, and natural disasters. Our success is a result of a dedicated Board of Directors, generous supporters like you, and our incredible PPNorCal staff who continued to provide life-changing care without disruption. With you by our side, PPNorCal will continue to build upon the accomplishments and triumphs of this last year. One of our most gratifying accomplishments this year, was successfully opening our Flagship Health Center in the heart of San Francisco, despite all the odds against us. It is a breath-taking space of healing and innovation.

I am very proud of our health centers' successful transition to Epic, an enhanced Electronic Health Record system highlighted in this Newsletter's "Feature Story" section. PPNorCal is the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the nation to utilize this premiere system which will increase our overall effectiveness, quality of care, and data analytics.

We celebrate our extraordinary staff who are at the heart of our organization. In this newsletter, we are spotlighting two of our Clinicians, Lisa Jonewaard and Gail Cipolla. Lisa received a PPFA Beacon Award for her leadership and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic and Gail is retiring after an amazing 48-year career of providing exceptional care at PPNorCal. (See more in "Highlights" below)

I am thankful that Planned Parenthood Northern California continues to be a safe place for those needing reproductive health care services - no matter what! We are grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to the start of our fiscal new year on July 1st filled with hope and enthusiasm.



Respectfully,

Gilda Gonzales
President and CEO
Planned Parenthood Northern California

SF Flagship: 1522 Bush St.

We are so excited to share our new Flagship Health Center with you. The center began serving patients on March 9, 2021. This modern facility and its advanced equipment and technology allows us to increase our service capacity, reduce wait times, and host both internal and external gatherings in our state-of-art multipurpose rooms. Our most commonly sought-after appointment types are STI screening and treatment, birth control, pregnancy testing, and breast and cervical cancer screenings.

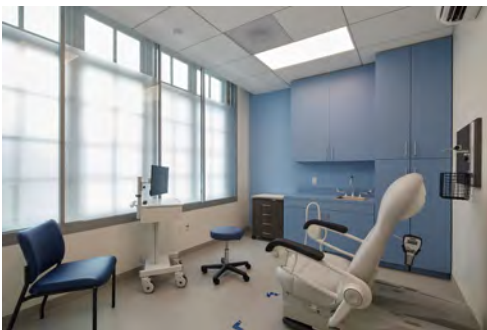
Please enjoy the photos below and this short video in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) to see more!



Reception and Waiting Room



Reception and Waiting Room



Patient Exam and Counseling Room



Multi-use space for Staff and Community Events

To all 877 donors who made this dream become a reality, we send you our endless gratitude!

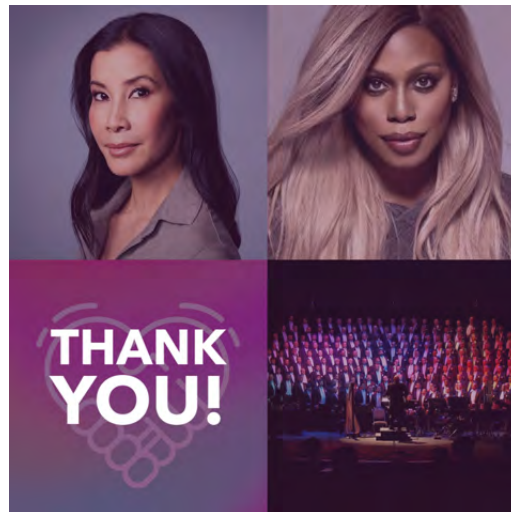
HIGHLIGHTS

We are Stronger & Healthier Together

On May 1, we held our first ever virtual fundraising event, **Stronger & Healthier Together**, with proceeds going to our Safe Haven Campaign. With our in-person fundraising events being canceled, we were thrilled to have all of our Northern California supporters join together for a night of virtual celebration, hosted by former Bay Area news anchor and PPNorCal friend, John Sasaki.

The highlight of our program was the conversation between Award-winning Journalist and Author, Lisa Ling, and Award-winning Actress, Producer, and Equal Rights Advocate, Laverne Cox. These two powerful women engaged in a moving conversation on the tribulations of the past year, the future of reproductive rights and racial justice, and more. Guests also enjoyed a never-before-seen performance from the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus of "Love Can Build a Bridge" as well as remarks from our CEO, Gilda Gonzales and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sara Kennedy.

The evening concluded with our Fund-A-Need for our Safe Haven Campaign. Keep reading to learn more about this campaign! Thank you to all the supporters and 40 program sponsors who generously gave and continue to stand with PPNorCal. We are looking forward to the time we can get back to celebrating together in person.



SCOTUS and the Future of Abortion Rights

The Supreme Court announced it would review Mississippi's 15-week abortion (AB) ban. By taking this case, the court will be reviewing nearly 50 years of precedent guaranteeing the right to abortion. In a country where your ability to access abortion depends on your income and zip code, the court's decision could further deteriorate access. This is the first direct challenge to Roe v. Wade since the new very conservative-leaning Justices joined the Court. A decision is expected in mid-2022.

If this attack on Roe v. Wade prevails, it will permit states to implement further restrictions to abortion care. Medical experts like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology have recognized abortion as an essential, time-sensitive procedure.

Due to the hard work of CA Planned Parenthood affiliates and other allies, California has supportive abortion rights protected under the state constitution which is good news. The current challenge we face in California is ensuring equitable abortion access to all patients especially those who live in rural communities. To address this disparity, PPNorCal launched our Safe Haven Campaign (see more below). If Roe is weakened, abortion could immediately be banned in several states and more are sure to follow. California can most certainly anticipate seeing an influx of patients who live in states where abortion may be outlawed or severely restricted. It is up to us to defend and expand access to abortion for Californians and anyone else coming for care. PPNorCal is committed to building a safe haven for all!



Do you feel motivated to join the fight to address barriers to abortion in Northern California, and beyond? Keep reading to learn more about our Safe Haven Campaign!

Building a Safe Haven for All

Our Safe Haven Campaign, born from the need to build sustainable and equitable access to reproductive health care throughout our 20 counties. The campaign's foundation is built on three Pillars: 1) Recruiting & Retaining Providers, 2) Investing in Our Entry-Level Staff, and 3) Securing the Safe Haven.

Highlighting Pillar 2: Investing in Our Entry-level Staff

Pillar 2 is focused on raising funds to incentivize our frontline staff to pursue clinician careers at PPNorCal. Reproductive Health Specialists (RHS) are entry-level health center staff members that are the strength of PPNorCal. They are passionate, dedicated, and serve our patients with excellence. They are often the first people most patients will encounter during their visit. They excel in collecting vital signs, supporting the providers, counseling patients on contraception, and managing lab work. Many RHS staff members live in and reflect the communities we serve. Studies have shown that when a provider's ethnicity mirrors their patients, they experience better health outcomes. To enhance the ethnic diversity of our clinical staff, PPNorCal must invest in our dedicated RHS workers, thereby increasing the quality of care for our patients. With your help, the Safe Haven Campaign funds can support RHS staff to obtain advanced education and clinical licensing to continue serving PPNorCal patients.



"My health care career would not have been possible without scholarships and financial programs like this one. I can definitely state that this effort works and it makes it possible to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within our clinician team."

- Nicole M. Barnett, RN, MBA, DHSc
PPNorCal Chair, Board of Directors

We are hoping to raise an additional \$800,000 to reach our goal of \$2MM by January 2022. Join us today, to secure a safe haven for our patients by sending your most generous gift. [Click here to donate!](#)

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Honoring Our Incredible Staff

Gail Cipolla, NP Celebrating 48 Years of Service

We honor the incredible, Gail Cipolla as she enters retirement after 48 years of service to Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal). Gail's impactful journey with PPNorCal began in 1972 as a medical assistant at our Richmond Health Center while studying nursing at Contra Costa College. She shares that "[she] always wanted to be a nurse. Even in kindergarten."

In **1973**, Gail accepted a Nurse Educator position where she worked in Planned Parenthood health centers and County Health Departments to discuss birth control methods. She graduated with her BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing), PHN (Public Health Nurse), and NP (Nurse Practitioner) in **1976** and became the Clinic Supervisor at our Richmond Health Center. After having her first child, she accepted the role of Head Nurse Practitioner in **1978** where she oversaw the clinicians and nurses at our Walnut Creek, Richmond, and Antioch Health Centers. From **1980-1987** Gail was part of the team that initiated many new services at our health centers. These services included abortion, HIV/AIDS antibody testing, education, and STD testing/treatment.



Did you know PPNorCal was the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the nation to offer testing and counseling for people living with HIV/AIDS?

Gail continued to seek further education and certifications while introducing new clinical services, locations, and practices. In the early **2000's** she was part of the ground-breaking team that brought medication abortion services to all of our health centers. In **2007**, she participated in the roll-out of the HPV vaccine and emergency contraception. By the late 2000's the need for our services was rapidly increasing. Our affiliate acquired health centers in San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties in **2010**, and Gail became the lead clinician at our Santa Rosa Health Center where she has led for the past 10+ years. She has touched countless lives during her time as an educator, Nurse Practitioner, and administrator. Gail is a trailblazer and her legacy will continue to encourage us to act with kindness, empathy, and resilience.



"Gail has given much dedication and hard work to Planned Parenthood over the years. This is not only demonstrated by her many years of service, but in her actions and attitude every day that she shows up to work. She is ALWAYS willing to jump in and help, even if she has a million things on her plate. I have called her on her days off, in a panic because another clinician called in sick, and she has been willing to jump in and help at a moment's notice. She has touched the lives of countless patients and staff members with her compassion and knowledge."

- Jess Blank, PPNorCal team member

"Planned Parenthood has been a big part of my life and life a second family to me through the years. I have gone through many milestones in my life and will have many fond memories as this long chapter comes to a close after 48 years."

- Gail Cipolla, NP

On behalf of our Board, staff, and patients - Thank you, Gail. Congratulations on your retirement! You will be missed.

Lisa Jongewaard, NP Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) Beacon Award

PPNorCal is proud to recognize Lisa Jongewaard, NP as the recipient of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) Beacon Award. The Beacon Award recognizes an individual who supported colleagues, served patients, and upheld Planned Parenthood's mission and workplace values during the most trying of times. This year this award is especially meaningful as it highlights that during the COVID-19 pandemic, this staff member went above and beyond in service of the Planned Parenthood mission.



Lisa Jongewaard, NP, remained an unwavering and essential sexual and reproductive health care provider in San Francisco. Throughout the pandemic, she continued to work serving patients. She voiced the importance of Planned Parenthood Northern California remaining open and providing reproductive health care services to the San Francisco community despite uncertainty and challenges. We could not have provided the volume and quality of care at our San Francisco Health Center without her relentless leadership and commitment. Between March 2020 and February 2021, our SF health center provided over 12,000 patient visits.

In March 2020, San Francisco was the first major city to impose shelter in place orders. Lisa continued to provide steadfast and brave leadership that reassured team members despite rapid changes. Her strength during this time inspired other team members to continue serving despite their uncertainty. Lisa also never wavered in her effort to treat every patient with dignity, respect, and empathy.

Lisa is the perfect candidate for the Beacon Award because her leadership directly impacted PPNorCal's ability to continue providing care in accordance with the City of San Francisco's successful and bold COVID-19 response. **Congratulations, Lisa!**

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) 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...

Approximately 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
1522 Bush St, San Francisco, CA 94109

At this address Timber Fall Court Suite B, Eureka, CA 95503

www.ppnorcal.org