



**Because of you,
our doors are open**

to everyone

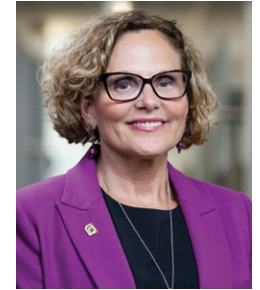


Letter From PPMM CEO Stacy Cross

Dear Friends,

Today I want to thank all of you who are fighting back.

You have united with us and our patients following the Supreme Court's dangerous decision that will strip millions of people of the right to abortion – to control their own bodies – in the states where they live.



Even in a post-Roe world, we are moving forward. And you are a big part of that.

We're expanding care across our affiliate – including at our new Reno health center, which will double in size next year. On page 2 you can read what two of our doctors and a local clinician have to say about that – they're celebrating!

In fact, why don't you take a minute to celebrate, too. Wave this newsletter around! Say it out loud: "Planned Parenthood is growing, and I helped make that happen!"

Let's celebrate storytelling, too. As you'll see on page 6, when we tell our stories, we erase stigma. Reducing stigma means fewer people being afraid to ask for – to demand – the health care they deserve.

Then we'll celebrate Patsy Montgomery. Patsy recently retired from PPMM as director of Public Affairs operations, but not before sharing some of her favorite memories and why she'll never stop fighting. You can read more on page 10.

Finally, I'd like to celebrate you. The stories and news on every page of this newsletter are thanks to you.

PPMM's patients, whether they live in our community or had to travel here, got the care they needed because of you.

With gratitude,

Stacy Cross
President & CEO

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN RENO



Reno's health center turns 50

Thanks to you, the Biggest Little City is getting a new Planned Parenthood health center

In a poignant moment of irony, our Reno health center reached its fiftieth birthday this year – just as the Supreme Court rejected a half-century precedent and overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

The devastating decision is expected to rob millions of people in 26 states of autonomy over their own bodies, but abortion is still legal in Nevada. And PPMM is proud to be breaking ground on a large new health center that will open in Reno next year, providing a full range of preventive and reproductive health care – including medication and in-center abortion care.



"I think of our (current) health center as the 'Biggest Little Health Center,' in the Biggest Little City," PPMM Reno Clinician Kate Schopp said. "Being able to expand will allow us to see more patients."



Architectural renderings of the new Reno health center

Serving increasing numbers of people in places and at times that are most convenient for them is part of our long-term strategy, which you're helping to make happen. It is especially important as we expect to see more patients come to us from states where abortion is now illegal.

"We're not accepting the status quo," said PPMM Chief Medical Operating Officer Dr. Laura Dalton. "I came here to reduce stigma and improve the patient experience. In the face of adversity we're going to thrive."

Associate Medical Director Dr. Jessica Hamilton said the "heartbreaking" post-Roe landscape may still open new possibilities for providing essential care to patients in California and Nevada, where abortion remains safe and legal.

"These times of crisis are a wonderful opportunity for creativity," she said. "We've already been preparing. I'm hopeful that now we will further streamline care for greater access."

Dr. Hamilton recently hired another provider in Reno and plans to bring on another in the next year.

"Patients in Northern Nevada and the Tahoe basin - there's a desert of health care in this area," she said. "I try to get care for myself and my family, and it's challenging. So to start having these services, I'm thrilled! It could not happen soon enough."

Once the doors are open at the new Reno site, Kate Schopp knows it will also become a trusted community health center for people who need it most.

"Young, uninsured patients often decline contraception and screening for STIs because of financial constraints," Kate said. "They are extremely grateful when PPMM can help cover the cost of STI screening, Pap smears, and contraception with the donations we receive."

She recalled one patient who came to the 50-year-old Reno health center last month but didn't have the money or insurance to cover their visit.

"We were able to use donated funds to cover the cost of their appointment," Kate said. "They were so grateful that they came back and paid it forward for the next patient. The clinicians and the patients are always thankful for the generosity of the donors in our community." ■



Patients' Stories

You know that every patient's story is important - from helping to end stigma to exposing the real-life effects of abortion bans. Stories help us all to connect and move forward together.

The stories on these pages were written by patients while they were in a Planned Parenthood Mar Monte recovery room, to be shared with future abortion care patients.

Thank you for helping to provide a safe place for these writers to get the care they needed.

I am sitting in recovery + crying because I am so relieved that the whole thing is over. Maria, Angie, Theresa, + Dr. [redacted] treated me so well. They all worked together to help me understand the abortion procedure and worked HARD to answer all of my questions.

Planned Parenthood is an awesome organization that needs tons + tons of funding to allow them to help women like us. No matter how we landed here or why, please understand that when it comes time to vote, make sure that you do an that it supports what they do here. Who knows when you may need them again, either for yourself or someone you love. I have a 15 year-old daughter who is not yet sexually active, but when she is she can come here and help protect herself from doing what we have.

I love you girl, lots. Be strong + also careful so you don't have to come back. You have made the best choice for you. I know this, because you are here. Keep your head up + use this as a learning experience!




I'm seventeen years old. I have a two year old. I love her with all my heart. I can say that having a child is very hard, harder then you can ever imagine. There is so much that goes in to it. It's not just taking care of them it's worrying about their ~~future~~ life and money. But for me I would never change it if I could go back on having her, I still would have, she brings me love and happiness. She keeps my head on straight. Before, when I didn't have her I was very depressed. When I was a little girl I was molested

I have always been very confused. And I know for a fact that has a great deal on why I became pregnant so young. When I found out I was pregnant again I was in shock, I will always be disappointed in my self for letting that happen, I should have known better. ~~Choosing~~ My choice in not keeping this baby is the hardest choice I have ever made. But I would not be able to take care of it, I wouldn't have the money and my family would be so mad at me. But with my daughter.

I'm doing what ever it takes to give her a good life, I do very well and I'm going to go to college. Life is hard and everyone has ~~problems~~ had their own heartships. We all make mistakes I wish the best for all of you.

Hello, I'm 18 years old, and I came to the Planned Parenthood to take a pregnancy test. I knew something was wrong when I didn't get my period after a month. So when I took the test and I found out that I was 9 weeks I was ~~a~~ scared, and didn't know what to do. So I went home and cry because I knew I couldn't take care of this baby so what I decide was not have it. At first I thought it was wrong but I thought about. I couldn't take of a baby I'm still a child myself. I don't regret making the decision I made it was best that I go through with this. when my appointment came I was so scared, I didn't even want to come but the reality was I couldn't take care of this child. when I came to the doctor office I thought it was going to be painful and take long. But it was quick and easy. you just have to relax and ~~know~~ what you are doing is the right choice. So be strong and keep your head up.

Have a great life and Good luck with what ever you do 

Always

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Patsy Montgomery retired last month after more than 30 years with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.

She began her career as a health educator in Fresno and was most recently director of Public Affairs operations. From marching in Fresno Pride to rallying with her mentor, legendary UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, Patsy was and always will be committed to the mission of PPMM. Like you, she ensures that people can get health care they need, no matter what.

Here are some of Patsy's favorite memories about the work you helped her to accomplish.

You can read more about Patsy's incredible work by going to our online newsletters at ppmarmonte.org/newsletters.

What is your favorite PPMM memory?

Being the director of Education in the late 1990's and having a LGBTQ+ and homeless youth drop-in center led by amazing, talented people. They created a safe space for people ages 12-24 who needed a place where they could be feel valued and "seen." I remain in touch with those staff members and the LGBTQ+ youth whose lives it affirmed.



Patsy receives a proclamation from CA Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula for the impact that she has had in the community while being with PPMM for the past 31 years.

What career success are you most proud of?

Gaining the endorsement of the Bakersfield Californian to oppose three parental notification initiatives, which used the (PP) campaign's messaging to oppose the dangerous initiative. When the first editorial was published, it gave hope to the statewide campaign since the paper had never before supported any initiative that was "left-of-center."

What was the biggest hurdle PPMM faced in your career?

We are facing the biggest ever challenge with the Supreme Court's decision to decimate *Roe v. Wade*. It will negatively impact everything from abortion to hormonal birth control, gay marriage to interracial marriage and the lives of transgender children and their parents.

How will PPMM expansion help the patients we serve?

Many of our patients travel long distances to access full reproductive health care, including gender affirming care. At a public hearing in Visalia, a young queer person, speaking before policy makers for the first time said, "No doctor in this town wants to see me because of the pronouns I use or the way I look... PP is the only place I feel safe. Please let them build and expand their services."



Patsy with mentor Dolores Huerta

I recently learned of another patient in a rural community who needed an abortion which wasn't available at the PPMM health center in her town. Her car broke down on the way to her out-of-county PPMM health center. She could barely afford the gas, and now she had a car to repair in addition to taking another day off work - just to get what should be basic health care. Expansion of services to meet the current and anticipated needs of people from within our territory and other states is more important now than ever before in my 31 year tenure.

"YOU are the visionary leaders Walter Cronkite spoke about."

What do you think most people get wrong about PPMM?

We often forget that the vast majority of people support our work. The anti-PP people are often louder, and the media often gives life to narratives that somehow all we care about is abortion. All of us need to make certain we don't miss the opportunities to speak-up when we hear misinformation about our work and our impact.

What would you like to tell donors?

I recently came across an old document from our Fresno region. It was quoting the iconic American news anchor Walter Cronkite who reported in August of 1971, "Today in the Central Valley of California, a small group of visionary leaders opened the first Planned Parenting clinic in Fresno. It remains to be seen who will follow in their footsteps."

YOU are the visionary leaders Walter Cronkite spoke about.

From that small clinic in the basement of Fresno's First Christian Church emerged two health centers now serving more than 22,000 unique patients annually. Through your financial support and engagement in public policy advocacy, PPMM can continue to grow and live up to the prophetic words spoken on the evening news in 1971. ■

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 - forever - by including PPMM in your will or trust at ppmarmonte.org/legacy

3. VOLUNTEER

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

4. SHARE YOUR STORY

Inspire others by sharing your experience with Planned Parenthood's health services, education programs, and/or advocacy with our story collectors at ppmarmonte.org/my-story

5. SUPPORT AN ABORTION FUND

PPMM provides health care and abortion funds help patients with travel costs so they can access the care they need.

Consider supporting them too at accessrj.org (CA's abortion fund) and wildwestfund.org (NV's abortion fund).

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



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