



THE NEWSLETTER FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF HOUSTON AND SOUTHEAST TEXAS

It's a Small World After All

By Chad Benedict, Manager of Foundations and Individual Giving

More than 375 guests filled the Hornberger Conference Center on October 6 as PPHSET held the *It's a Small World Gala 2001* honoring longtime Planned Parenthood supporter Gwyn Smith.

Attendees dined on cuisine from around the world and engaged in some friendly bidding for over 75 auction items. Several lucky bidders went home with trips to Spain, Morocco, Croatia, New Mexico and Martha's Vineyard, and one individual now has a new wine cellar with over 75 bottles of fabulous and rare vintages. PPHSET Board Member Peggy Heaton stole the show with her winning bid on a new 2002 Jaguar X-Type! By the time the last die-hard revelers went home, close to \$300,000 had been raised!

All proceeds from the gala go directly to provide healthcare to the women, teens and men that PPHSET serves throughout Houston and southeast Texas. During the live auction, guests also bought specific services for low-income women in our area including mammograms, well-woman exams and a cervical dysplasia treatment.



Left to Right: Melaney Linton, Senior VP of Medical Services; Dr. Paul Fine, Medical Director; Reece Altman, Auction Chair; Mickey Altman



Many thanks to Bill and Andrea White for hosting the 2001 Underwriter Party. Left to Right: Bill and Andrea White with Honoree Gwyn Smith.

...continued on page 2

Welcome to the second issue of PLAN IT!

Visit our new web site at www.pphouston.org

and give us your comments.

We want to hear from you!

Celebrating
65
years of service
to the community

WINTER 01-02

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www.pphouston.org

IT'S A SMALL WORLD *continued...*

PPHSET would like to thank all those who supported the gala including attendees, donors, staff and volunteers; Underwriter Party hosts Andrea and Bill White; Auction Chair Reece Altman; Decorations Chairs Dana Hurt and Jan Kegley; Entertainment Chair Allison Bell; Food Chairs Sandy Colt and Jan Greer; and PPHSET's Board of Directors for collectively chairing this successful event.



Left to Right: Gwyn Smith, Honoree; Reece Altman, Auction Chair; Peter Durkin, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood and Elena Marks, Board Chair.



Left to Right: Jan Greer, Board Member, and Chalou Fontaine.



Long-time and generous supporter, Elsa Kaim.



Left to Right: Dr. Paul Fine, Medical Director, and Jan Kegley, Decorations Co-Chair.



Left to Right: Former Board Member John Orton and Kathy Orton.



Left to Right: Board Member Ruffi Natarajan & Margot Leonard



Left to Right: Honoree Gwyn Smith with Sally & Monte Ackerman.

FOUR MORE YEARS!!!

Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas earned its accreditation from Planned Parenthood Federation of America in November 2001. This four-year recommendation acknowledges PPHSET's excellent operation and is a seal of approval for its plans for advancement.

After visiting nine out of the ten clinics, the PPFA team

praised PPHSET's exemplary customer service, positive morale, strong finances and superior documentation. The team was also impressed with the facilities, security and signage.

It takes years to build a solid organization and keep dedicated employees who understand the needs of clients while protecting the service mark and brand name.

Planned Parenthood Sex Education Team Program Blooms

By Meryl Cohen, V.P. of Education and Counseling



Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, in collaboration with

AmeriCorps and Youth Advocates, created the Planned Parenthood Sex Education Team (PPHSet) Program. PPHSet educated six young men and women to become peer educators, so that they in turn can teach sexual health and responsibility issues to their contemporaries.

The AmeriCorps group developed a spirited one-hour presentation that uses rap, hip-hop, dancing and poetry to instruct young individuals about sexuality, relationships, diseases and the importance of abstinence.

During the fall of 2001, PPHSet performed for more than 1,000 teens at area schools. They also received standing ovations after performing for several hundred professionals at conferences held by the City of Houston Health Department and Communities In Schools - Houston.

Anyone interested in setting up a performance should call Sandra Gonzales at 713-831-6557.



1st Row: Karina Droguett, Adrian Garcia, Angela Delgado. 2nd Row: Ericka Martinez, Frank Martinez, Rick Zepeda



The President's Corner

FINDING COMMON GROUND

As we look around the world and observe seemingly intractable conflicts, as in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Northern Ireland, we all yearn for a measure of peace and understanding. Perhaps the same could be said of the debates over sexuality, the role of women, and the options to address unintended pregnancies.

In the fall of 1999, thanks to the leadership of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston, Planned Parenthood representing **Pro-Choice** met with **Pro Life** and **other community organizations**. The groups were drawn together to identify areas that we might agree upon. Three members represented each organization, and we met periodically for almost six months. (The groups mutually agreed to use the terms Pro-Choice and Pro-Life during the meetings.)

Initially there was an element of tension, but over time we were able to understand the values and beliefs that shaped our respective programs. Ultimately we were able to negotiate and agree on seven value statements whereby we found common ground. These statements were:

- While we may not agree as to when life begins, we believe that all human life is sacred.
- Every child deserves to be wanted, loved, and cared for.
- We believe that all people should have access to affordable, quality health care services and information.
- We believe that sexuality is a natural aspect of human life.
- We believe that there should be fewer unintended conceptions resulting in crisis pregnancies.
- We believe that, in pursuit of one's own point of view, the use of illegal violence against another person is never justified.
- We accept the sincerity of each other's beliefs.

As representatives of Planned Parenthood, we never compromised on our core organizational values and beliefs. Indeed, I feel this exercise strengthens our resolve to work towards healthy women, healthy families and healthy communities. I had hoped that we could share our work and end product with the media and wider community, but we could not reach consensus on a broader strategy.

I am sharing this with our supporters as I believe that being "Pro Choice" is being open to other opinions and respectful of all choices that women face when dealing with their sexuality and unintended pregnancies. We continue to believe that women have the moral capacity to make complex life decisions. And, we believe that women have the right to decide when, whether, and how to bring new life into this world.

We tried to keep our conversations from becoming debates, and I thought we were good role models for how these difficult issues could be addressed. Sometimes even a "cold" peace is better than no peace at all.

Peter J. Durkin
President and CEO

Free PAP Test Day a Success *By Cris Perez, V.P. of Communications & Marketing*



Once a year Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas gives all women the opportunity to receive a free and possibly life-saving medical exam. On December 5, 2001, the fifth Free Pap Test Day was held in PPHSET's 10 clinics, and a record of 466 women were screened for cervical cancer that day. After their appointments, women were encouraged to write letters to their elected officials, asking for their support in funding women's preventive health care. In Texas alone, 1.5 million women do not have health insurance and cannot afford to pay for their annual health exams.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2001 there were about 12,900 new cases of cervical cancer in the United States. About 4,400 women have died from this disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, screenings for cervical cancer are lower among some disadvantaged groups, such as women with fewer years of educa-

tion, elderly women, and members of some racial and ethnic minority groups. Reasons for lower rates of screening include the lack of a regular medical provider, the lack of health insurance, and the lack of information about the importance of early cancer detection.

Cervical cancer forms gradually in the lining of the cervix, as cells begin to change from normal to pre-cancerous and then to cancer. This process can take a number of years, although sometimes it happens more quickly. For some women, pre-cancerous changes may go away without any treatment. More often, they need to be treated to keep their condition from becoming cancerous.

The Papanicolaou Test, or Pap Smear, is the most effective method for finding pre-cancerous changes or cancers on the cervix. To perform a Pap Test, a health professional takes a special sample of loose cells from the cervix. Examination of this sample under a microscope can help determine if abnormal

cells are present. The Pap Test provides the means to prevent nearly all deaths from cervical cancer.

Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas has screened more than 1,600 women since 1997 through its Free Pap Test Day and plans to continue the annual program.



Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas provided over 400 women with free pap smears on Pap Test Day. Left to Right: Veronica Garza, a promotora, and Blake Barker, a VOX intern.

Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism *By Sylvia LeBlanc, Director of Volunteer Services*



More than 100 people attended PPHSET's annual volunteer recognition event, Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism. Volunteers and their family members, staff, donors and supporters were in attendance. Local T.V. celebrity Trazanna Halstead, KPRC-TV news anchor and reporter, hosted the spirited October event at the Ensemble Theatre.

Featured guest speaker Mary Shallenberger, former chair of the

national board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, spoke on the September 11 disaster. She stated that the tragic event heightened awareness of the importance of volunteers, who readily give of themselves.



Left to Right: Shelia Loewenstern and Neal Parker, volunteers; and Mary Shallenberger, PPFA former Board Chair.

Shallenberger also spoke about the acts of terrorism against Planned Parenthood clinics and staff and how the PPFA community has rallied in the face of danger. Shallenberger praised the volunteers for their continued commitment to Planned Parenthood's mission.

Special recognition was given to PPHSET volunteers who went beyond the call of duty in their volunteer roles. The volunteer award recipients were:

Education - Trina Finley
Development & Administration - Colleen Cowan
Escorts - Ken Roberts
Public Affairs - Ellen Willmore
Surgical Services & Family Planning - Pat Culpepper
Surgical Services Hand Holders - Jennifer Battle, Romy Cassack, Dorlee Henderson, Connie Merrill, Jacqueline Nguyen and Jackie Rather
Interns:
Development - Beth Greiner
Public Affairs - Eva Thibaudeau-Graczyk
Youth:
Mackenzie Massey and Jackson Massey
Community Support:
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, University of Houston Downtown - Omicron Gamma Chapter

Due to the dedication and support of over 400 volunteers, PPHSET saved \$79,000. Many thanks on behalf of PPHSET and its Houston and Southeast Texas clients.



Left to Right: Sylvia LeBlanc, Director of Volunteer Services; Jennifer Battle, volunteer; Elena Marks, PPHSET Board Chair; Jacqueline Nguyen and Jackie Rather, volunteers; and Peter Durkin, President & CEO of PPHSET.

Voices for Choice *By Cindy Gibson, Grassroots Advocacy Director*



Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX)

educates young people about the threats to reproductive health care and mobilizes them in support of reproductive freedom. VOX is part of the Planned Parenthood Responsible Choices Action Agenda, a proactive advocacy and service initiative to expand and secure reproductive rights into the next century.

In September, PPHSET hired two energetic interns to launch our VOX program in Houston. The interns will be organizing and mobilizing support for Planned Parenthood on the campuses of Rice University, University of Houston Central Campus and Texas Southern University. With a combined enrollment of over 40,000 students, these schools provide a large and diverse population in which to recruit future Planned Parenthood supporters.

PPHSET staff members from all departments, including public affairs, communications, education and volunteers, helped create and continue to manage the development of VOX to ensure that the program achieves its three main goals: to increase awareness of sexuality and reproductive health issues; to strengthen pro-choice, pro-

family planning leadership on area campuses; and to engage more young people as responsive advocates for Planned Parenthood and our issues. This inter-departmental approach to campus organizing allows all staff to take an active role in VOX and to provide the interns with the tools and information necessary to successfully engage students on these campuses.

Our VOX team has already participated in over 20 campus events reaching a total of 750 people! Of these students, 83 have signed up to become VOX members and hope to join our PPHSET family as volunteer educators. Working together, these young people are organizing and making a difference in our southeast Texas communities. For more information on VOX programs, please call 713-831-6588.

Footprints in the Sand



Everyone leaves footprints on the sands of time; likewise we can leave our impressions on

the lives of others. A person is remembered for the weight of their character, for acts of achievement, for feats of kindness, and for deeds of generosity. As we create those positive impressions, we enhance the lives of our friends and loved ones by providing footprints for them to follow.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means we have to form an impression in the sand in order to help others recall our priorities. For instance, consider the effect of a plan that not only includes provisions for family members, but resources for charitable organizations such as Planned Parenthood.

An estate gift creates a positive statement.

When you include PPHSET in the final disposition of your estate, you announce to your family and friends that you believe in and care about our mission and services. Your parting gift is clearly a statement of your values.

An estate gift supplies needed funding.

Estate gifts are especially valuable, not only because they tend to be larger than annual gifts, but also because they often

come at critical times. Your generous gift provides an extra boost to the budget allowing us to advance and expand our programs.

Estate gifts can be designated for a specific purpose or they can be unrestricted for use where needed most. Your gift can fund our endowment, thereby providing an ongoing testament to your friends and loved ones of your unrelenting belief in Planned Parenthood's mission and vision.

An estate gift encourages replication.

There's something about a well-planned estate gift that influences others to imitate

your generosity. As friends and family members plan their own estates, they may recall your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your gift may unlock resources for PPHSET from other future estate planning bequests.

Cynthia Grant, PPHSET's Vice President for Development, is available to provide you with the information and materials you need to include charitable giving in your overall estate plan. To arrange for a personal visit, or to simply request complimentary information, complete and return the form below to Planned Parenthood, or call 713-831-6518.

Dear Friends at PPHSET:

- Please send me literature about making an estate gift.
- Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is: _____.
- I have already provided a bequest for PPHSET in my will.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return this completed form to: Cynthia Grant
PPHSET, 3601 Fannin
Houston, TX 77004



Honor Roll of Donors

August 11 through November 28, 2001

We are grateful to the individuals who have acted on their belief that choosing whether and when to bear children is a basic human right and an expression of integrity, morality, and dignity. With each gift, large or small, we've helped women and men live healthier, safer lives by providing the very best health care and education. We are inspired by the trust, commitment, and generous support of our donors, and we are proud to include, with their expressed permission, their names in this report.

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*Cornerstone Club

THE 20/20 CLUB

The 20/20 Club recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated perfect vision for the future by naming Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas as a beneficiary of a gift from their estate or in their will.

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Cornerstone Club *A Tradition of Giving*

This select group of contributors supports the Annual Fund with a gift of \$1,000 or more. You are invited to become a member and enjoy special benefits and invitations to exclusive events.

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Mary A. Van Kerrebrook

*Charter Member

In Honor of...

With each momentous event that shapes our lives, we honor - and we celebrate the people we hold dear. In times of passage and transition, we remember - and we affirm our hope for the future. Tributes have been made to Planned Parenthood in the names of the following:

Honorariums

In Honor of Sarah Aldrich
Gwyn W. Smith
In Honor of George W. Bush
Hank Kastner
Marilyn K. Knight
In Honor of Carolyn Calfee & Gerard Choucroun
Ross Baker & Lisa Jones
In Honor of Deborah McAbee
Katherine Amandes
In Honor of Lainie Gordon & David Mincberg
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In Honor of Gwyn W. Smith
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Sarah & Ray Nesbitt
Gail Payne
In Honor of Melvin Sondock
Mrs. Helen B. Rosenbaum

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Mrs. George F. Vietor
In Memory of Mr. Flowers
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In Memory of Agnes Kelleher
Carol Kelleher
In Memory of Susan McAshan
Mr. & Mrs. George Peterkin
In Memory of Myra Ravel
Shelley Green
In Memory of Jackuelin Jane Hawkins
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In Memory of Zella Silverman
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In Memory of Samuel Simkin
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Very Involved Persons support Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas through a monthly gift program.

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Action Fund News



Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas Action Fund, Inc. endorsed the re-election of Mayor Lee Brown. Left to Right: Mayor Lee Brown and Peter Durkin, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas.

Coming soon to a website near you— **March '02 Primary Voter Guide!**

Read the candidates' responses to a questionnaire on issues related to Planned Parenthood's mission and services by logging onto the Action Fund website, www.pphsetactionfund.org, beginning February 1.

Please note: This will be your only way to get this information, as PPHSET will not be printing and mailing the guide this year.

Save the Date!!!

The PPHSET Action Fund, Inc. Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 18. The guest speaker will be Cecile Richards, from Washington, D.C., who currently works on reproductive rights and family planning issues for the Turner Foundation. PPHSET will also be honoring Houston City Council member Carol Alvarado, the PPHSET Action Fund board member elected to public office.

Second Annual Bourbon Street Bash a Success

By Chad Benedict, Manager of Foundations and Individual Giving



On October 13, PPHSET held its Second Annual Bourbon Street Bash in Bryan at the home of Mary and Tyler Moore. Despite gloomy weather early in the day, over 175 guests arrived to find a taste of New Orleans' food and music on this crisp October evening.

Home-cooked Cajun dishes and the sounds of soul music performed by Ruthie Foster and Cyd Cassone were all guests needed to make this one of the most fun-filled events of the year!

Although several protestors stood outside for most of the evening, our Pledge-A-Protestor Campaign took advantage of their presence and raised an additional \$4,000, bringing the total for the evening to over \$27,000! The last minute call for our pledge campaign was met with an

incredible response from PPHSET staff and community members who pledged specific amounts of money for each minute the protestors stayed.



Nikki Van Hightower,
Gala Chair.



Left to Right: Dyann Santos, Clinic Director, Ruthie Foster, Band Leader, and Debbie McCall, Community Services Director.

WE'RE GROWING!



Board Members and Management Team celebrate the acquisition of a new administrative facility by PPHSET.



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