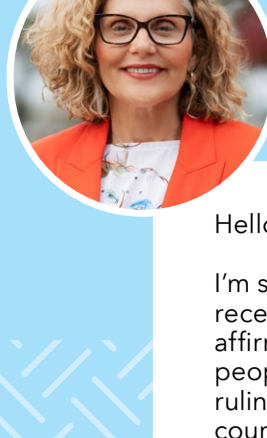


# The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



## LETTER FROM THE CEO PPMM's inspiring abortion care, one year after Roe was overturned

Hello Friends,

I'm sure many of you are still reeling, as I am, from the monumentally unjust decisions recently issued by the U.S. Supreme at the end of its term, including the elimination of affirmative action and granting businesses the "right" to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people based on religious beliefs. It's all the more sobering to note that these regressive rulings, rolling back years of precedent, come barely a year since this conservative extremist court issued the *Dobbs* ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade* after nearly a half-century.

But, as cruel and outrageous as the *Dobbs* decision was, one year later PPMM can be extremely proud of how we have stepped up to expand delivery of excellent abortion care for our patients, including those who came to us from states where they no longer have this right over their own body.

Our dedicated providers and health care staff have performed heroically throughout this national crisis – even as many have been horrified by stories patients tell when they come to our California and Nevada health centers from states where they feared being arrested for seeking abortion care.

We know the ability to get safe, legal abortion in this country is still determined by where you live and how much money you have. Due to systemic racism and discrimination, the worst of these bans continue to be borne by millions of Black, Latino, and Indigenous people as well as immigrants, people living with low incomes, and those in rural areas.

Here at PPMM, we are proud to have worked in coalition to create staunch protections for reproductive rights in both California and Nevada, and we are committed to caring for those who have persecuted and denied essential health care in other states.

In the meantime, we've also expanded digital sex ed to thousands of young people and families, and we have engaged swing voters across party lines who are overwhelmingly opposed to restriction of abortion rights.

As I've said before, *Roe v. Wade* was just the floor for what abortion access should be – we always needed more. We will continue to work toward a future where our reproductive freedoms are no longer up for debate.

I also want to wish everyone a happy beginning of the summer Pride season! Be sure to check out the great work our Public Affairs team and other staff have done ([story](#), [below](#)) celebrating and promoting Pride with our community partners.

Pride commemorations are especially important this year in the wake of hostile legislation sweeping the country that discriminates against and targets the LGBTQ+ community. Over 520 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures, over 220 bills specifically target transgender and non-binary people, and a record 70 anti-LGBTQ+ laws have been enacted so far this year. They include banning gender affirming care for transgender youth, requiring misgendering of transgender students, targeting drag performances, creating a license to discriminate, and banning books that promote love, critical thinking, and real life.

But we are one of the organizations that is strongly resisting and speaking out against this vicious injustice. I could not be more proud that PPMM provides gender affirming care and other health care to the LGBTQ+ community in both states where we operate.

In closing, I'll say again how very grateful I am for the support you have shown PPMM and our patients since the Supreme Court's disastrous *Dobbs* decision robbed millions of our fellow Americans of health care they need and deserve.

You are helping to turn this very dark time for our country into what I think will be one of our finest hours as an essential health care provider for every community we serve.

In Solidarity,

*Stacy*

## Marching with Pride! PPMM Public Affairs joins community partners, championing LGBTQIA+ rights

By Digital Organizing Specialist **Nick A.**

It's the start of 2023 Pride season when we celebrate and reflect on how the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights, reproductive rights, and racial justice are closely connected throughout our communities.

As nationwide attacks increase against queer people (see [Letter from the CEO](#), above), Pride presents an opportunity to look back on the origins of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement and the role Planned Parenthood Mar Monte continues to play in the pursuit of queer liberation.

Pride festivities are taking place throughout California and Nevada this summer, and PPMM grassroots organizers are inviting supporters to join in! There are many ways to get involved, so check out the list below of regional Pride events.

Help us further our mission of providing non-judgmental care, including life-saving gender-affirming health care, to everyone who visits our health centers, regardless of who they are or whom they love.

Meanwhile, here are some dispatches from our mighty grassroots organizers who have fanned out all over PPMM regions to join our community partners and legislative champions in celebrating all that is Pride.

**Fresno Rainbow Pride**  
PPMM Central Valley Grassroots Organizer **Karina G.**

PPMM was honored at this year's Pride by having Central Valley Regional Director of Public Affairs Socorro S. as one of the Fresno Rainbow Pride's grand marshalls!

This year's Fresno Rainbow Pride was a smash success with help from PPMM's Central Valley staff, awesome volunteers, and Gen Action club students. Our pride parade float theme was dedicated to the local trans community, bringing awareness to those who are harmed and persecuted by an increase of anti-trans bills, nationwide – and serve as a reminder that PPMM is dedicated to supporting and providing essential health care services to our trans and queer community every day.

The PP GenAction students from Fresno City College and Fresno State University took the lead creating our parade float, part of all the hard work they have done on their campuses to advocate for more inclusive spaces and resources for LGBTQ+ students.

Our awesome volunteers brought so much energy to our Pride float by leading our march down the parade route, chanting "Trans Health Care Saves Lives!" – along with some groovy moves to bring out the best in our group.

Fresno Rainbow Pride was such a fantastic experience for so many of our young volunteers because they were encouraged to show up as themselves and were totally embraced by their LGBTQ+ community.

**Hayward Pride Prom**  
Alameda Grassroots Organizer **Becca H.:**

PPMM staff and volunteers tabled at the Hayward Pride Prom to celebrate and educate youth about sexual and reproductive health care options at our Hayward health center. Community-based organizations that serve youth, local educators, and members of the Hayward City Council all showed up to celebrate and stand in solidarity. Major shout-out to Eden Youth Project for organizing this event to create a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to celebrate their authentic selves!

**San Jose Jubilee**  
PPMM Silicon Valley/Coast Grassroots Organizer **Elizabeth M.:**

The first Saturday in June, PPMM staff and volunteers were at Qmunity – Jubilee Wellness Festival, a one-of-a-kind street festival in heart of downtown San Jose that celebrates the health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ and their allies. Volunteers passed out swag, enjoying the spirit of community to kick off Pride month. It was a night full of drag, culture, and love, with moving stories from patients who spoke about how glad they were that PPMM was there for them.

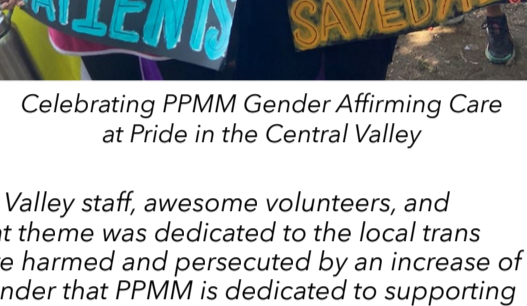
... and Santa Cruz Pride

PPMM staff and partners including Westside Santa Cruz health center staff, members of the Development team, and PPMM Education-sponsored Teen Council members, turned out in early June to participate in Santa Cruz Pride!

We were excited to see our reproductive-rights champions and local officials, like Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, out there to spread love and community resources at Pride.

Volunteer and local Teen Council member, Lily, said, "I was excited to experience volunteering and look forward to more Pride events throughout the summer!"

We also experienced special moments of gratitude from Pride participants for PPMM's groundbreaking Gender Affirming Care program – and our "Gender Affirming Health Care Saves Lives" t-shirts were the first to be sold out!



Celebrating PPMM Gender Affirming Care at Pride in the Central Valley



Central Valley Director of Public Affairs Socorro S. standing by her designated Grand Marshall-mobile at the Fresno Pride Parade



PPMM Development team members tabling at Santa Cruz Pride

## Being Memorable

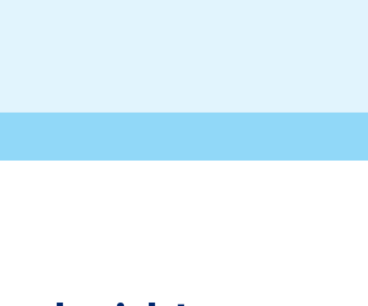
In this space, we spotlight health center staff members who have been mentioned by name in patient surveys for delivering a fantastic patient experience.

### Patient-centered care: Facilitating patients' decisions at Yuba City

Here's what two recent patients in Yuba City had to say about the care they received from Float Clinician Hannah B. and the entire Yuba City health center team.

• "Hannah was very kind and definitely listened to my concerns and provided excellent care. She described the risks of the medication I would be taking as well as the benefits. She made me feel very comfortable. The entire staff did as well."

• "The Yuba City location is amazing, and I LOVE the care I get there!"



Float Clinician Hannah B.

When patients come in to see Float Clinician Hannah B. in the Greater Valley North region, she wants to be sure that each of them knows she's there to help them find exactly the kind of care they want and need.

"For example, when someone comes in for a certain contraception method, I want to be sure to ask them what their goals are and how they want their birth control to fit into their lives," she said. "Those are also the kind of questions that let people know we are very tuned in to what their choices and decisions are."

Working as a close-knit team in the health center means that patients are able to easily communicate their needs to the staff throughout a single appointment, Hannah explained.

"We're such an efficient organization, and the staff at Yuba City does a great job working together to pass on information, from the front desk to HSS to clinicians, about what the patient has shared about what they want and why they're here."

Hannah recalled one recent teen patient who had come in for an abortion but wanted other care as well and wasn't sure how to ask for it. "We were able to provide the abortion care as well as get them set up with the birth control of their choice, after answering all of their questions," she said. "When they left, their shoulders were relaxed. You could just see and feel their relief."

That's what it looks like for patients to receive health care that makes them feel empowered.

## Milestones & Events

### PPMM is recruiting for reproductive health research trials!

This message brought to you by PPMM Associate Medical Director **Dr. Nimi Mastey:**

We're excited about our growing research program, and continue to recruit for our study in partnership with University of Utah regarding use of the hormonal IUD for emergency contraception and as quick start.

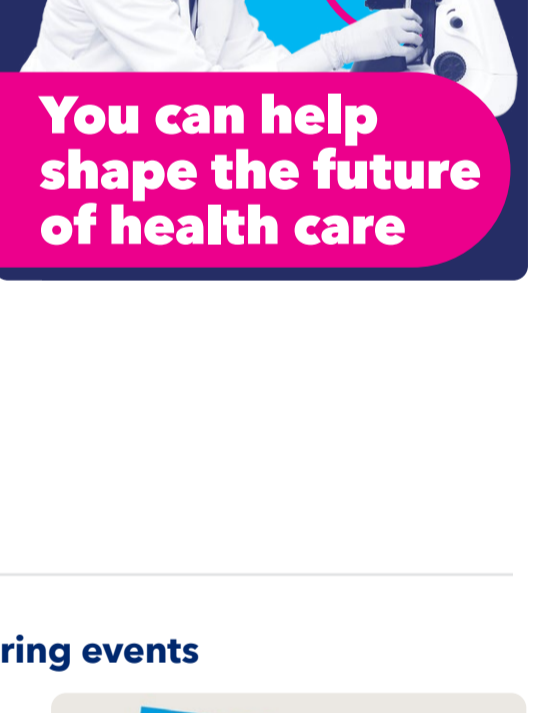
This study is being conducted at the San Mateo, Sacramento/B Street, and Fresno/Fulton health centers.

Stanford University is also conducting a clinical trial investigating alternative pain management options for procedural abortions. And we completed a study with University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) surveying patients on self-identification of eligibility for medication abortions.

Finally, through a PPFA grant, we are launching an exciting PPMM study looking at use of the Research Prioritization by Affected Communities protocol to conduct focus groups in Fresno with patients who have had abortions. These groups will prioritize future research questions that are important to community members who have had experiences with abortion.

If you're interested in participating or want more information, contact [research@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:research@ppmarmonte.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!



### Fundraising series wraps up with three great spring events

"It felt amazing to be a part of something so powerful. You and your team are amazing!" – Monterey roadshow attendee after her first-ever PPMM event.

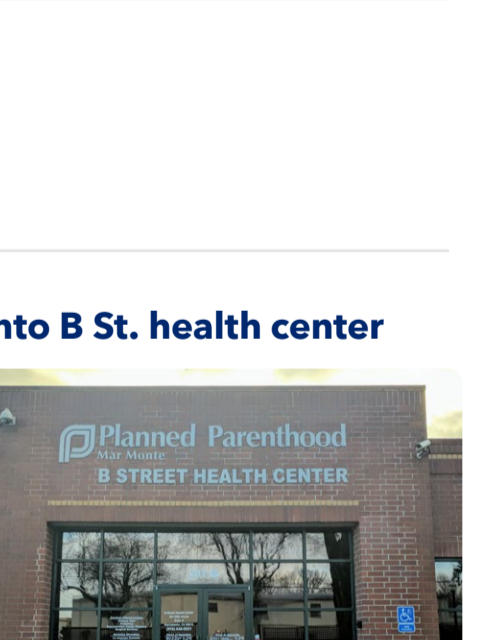
"Great event. I was really impressed by everyone who had never been at a PPMM event before." – PPMM member Ali Edwards, Monterey.

The Development team capped the "We Rise. We Resist. We Care." fundraising event series with two "roadshows" in Oakland and Monterey and a grand finale affiliate-wide virtual event, featuring a conversation between former Attorney General Eric Holder and PPMM CEO Stacy Cross.

Our in-person events – the first since COVID-lockdown in 2020 – brought in-person donors, volunteers, supporters, and staff together to share inspiring stories and celebrate the powerful impact that PPMM has in our communities. We were thrilled that Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao and Monterey Mayor Tyllier Williamson also joined our live programs as featured speakers.

All six events this year raised close to \$2 million to support PPMM's essential health care and services – breaking last year's record-setting numbers.

And we'll be back in the fall with more special programs! Be on the lookout in your email boxes for more information.

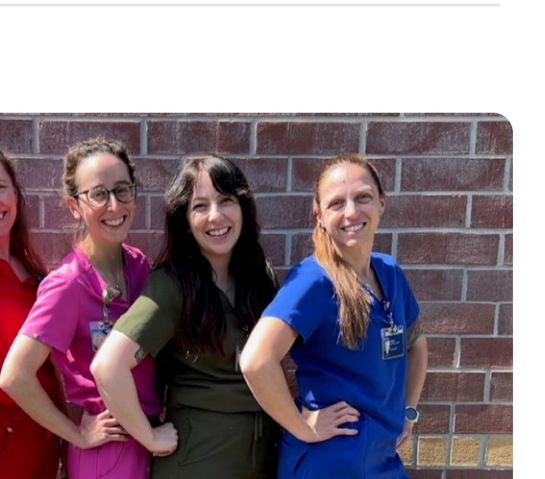


### PPMM team scores win for patients at the Sacramento B St. health center

A coalition of Public Affairs and other PPMM staff was successful this spring in helping to pass a Sacramento noise ordinance that significantly restricts harassment of patients by anti-abortion protesters who show up outside our B St. health center. And it's already made a huge improvement!

"Since the noise ordinance went into effect in May, we have noticed a tremendous change in the patient and staff experience," said Great Valley North Public Affairs Director Comdelaria V. "Some staff have noted that it has been a better feeling coming to work and knowing that our patients don't have to worry about someone shouting and intimidating them."

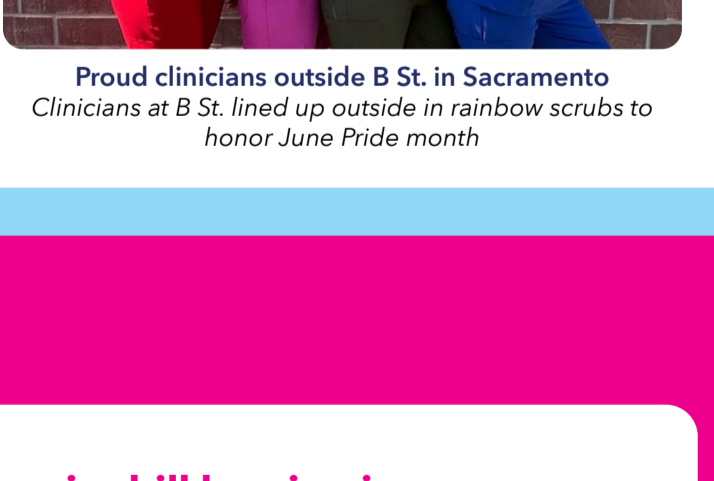
"We have also noticed that patients and their support person have been calmer during appointments, especially for sensitive services such as abortion care. It has been an amazing change for everyone, from our patients to our team members. We are truly grateful for the team that made this happen!"



### Health centers celebrate June Pride month!



Coliseum health center, in Oakland  
The Coliseum health center staff was 'jumpin' with Pride in a rainbow of scrubs



Proud clinicians outside B St. in Sacramento  
Clinicians at B St. lined up outside in rainbow scrubs to honor June Pride month

## The Big Picture

### California's May Capitol Day, major bill progressing in Nevada paves the way for legislative progress

For the first time since the three-year COVID lockdown, the Public Affairs team joined other California PP affiliates in person this May for our annual Capitol Day lobbying event in Sacramento, a unique opportunity for supporters and staff to participate in the legislative process. And it was nothing short of remarkable!

**Staff and volunteers focusing on top-priority legislation – including AB 576, the Abortion and Equity Act – aimed to safeguard reproductive rights across the state.**

You can check out the [Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte blog](#) for more information and fun photos from Capitol Day in May!

**In Nevada, a team of dedicated volunteers and PPMM supporters also fought for reproductive health care access – not just for Nevadans, but for people across state lines – by testifying in support of SB131.**

This vital bill safeguards those who come to Nevada for abortion care from being prosecuted when they return to their home states. It also protects our essential abortion providers.

Here are a few highlights from our grassroots organizers who were on the scene to help our volunteers explain to lawmakers why this legislation is so important to the health of all Californians and Nevadans.

**Alameda County Grassroots Organizer Becca H.:** An incredible turnout of newcomers and steadfast advocates united on Capitol Day in Sacramento, an empowering and enlightening experience for volunteers representing diverse faith groups, community partner organizations, and dedicated community activists!

**Central Valley Grassroots Karina G.:** PP Gen Action chapters from the Central Valley made their voices heard at this year's inspiring Capitol Day event, representing communities all the way from Tulare, Visalia, Dinuba, and Fresno!

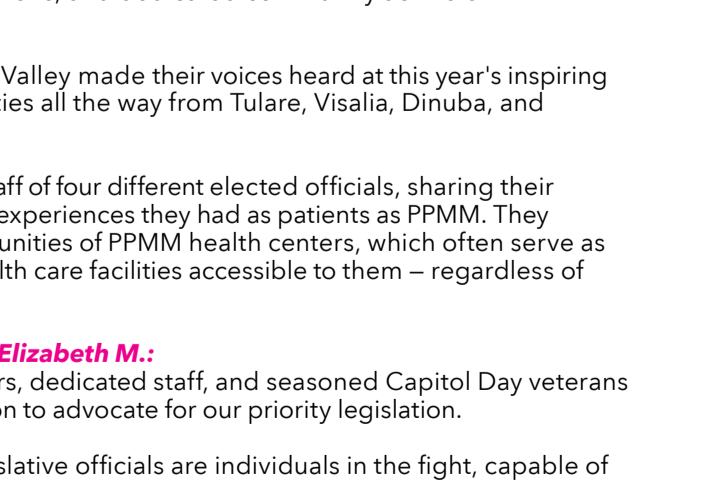
Our determined students met with office staff of four different elected officials, sharing their personal stories about the transformative experiences they had as patients as PPMM. They emphasized the significance in their communities of LGBTQ+ health centers, which often serve as the sole non-judgmental and inclusive health care facilities accessible to them – regardless of their identity or financial situation.

**Silicon Valley/Coast Grassroots Organizer Elizabeth M.:** We witnessed a wave of first-time volunteers, dedicated staff, and seasoned Capitol Day veterans joining forces, united virtually and in person to advocate for our priority legislation.

It was an important reminder that our legislative officials are individuals in the fight, capable of connecting deeply with us. Their compassionate listening was profoundly appreciated by the volunteers, enhancing the significance and meaning of their lobbying experience.

**Reno Grassroots Organizer Hailey L.:** Ten dedicated PPMM volunteers testified in support of SB131, a vital bill that safeguards individuals seeking abortions in Nevada from prosecution upon returning to their home states and provides protection for our essential abortion providers. Reproductive rights champion, Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro took a moment after the hearing to connect with our volunteers and express unwavering solidarity in preserving access to life-saving health care in Nevada!

Great work, team!



At Capitol Day in Sacramento with Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (AD 10.) third from the left, posed with PPMM staff and volunteers



Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro (black blazer, middle), poses with PPMM storytellers, staff, and volunteers

## Good Reads

**July 9, New York Times (op-ed Linda Greenhouse)**  
Look at What John Roberts and His Supreme Court Have Wrought Over 18 Years

**July 7, Common Dreams, op-ed**  
Biden is Wrong to Oppose Supreme Court Reform

**July 10, New York Times**  
Tuberville Blockade Over Abortion Policy Threatens Top Military Promotions

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