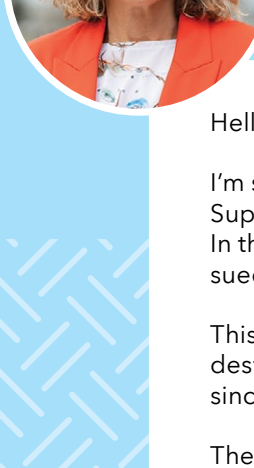


The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



LETTER FROM THE CEO Update on the battle for reproductive rights – and our new health centers

Hello Friends,

I'm sure you were just as appalled as I was when you heard the recent devastating Alabama Supreme Court ruling that said frozen embryos in test tubes should be considered "children." In this case, families who had embryos were accidentally destroyed at a fertility clinic had sued the clinic for wrongful death.

This decision, which is medically and scientifically unfounded, is part of the avalanche of destructive, oppressive court rulings and legislation that has crashed down across the country since Roe was overturned.

The Alabama ruling advances the far-right wing's attempts to create "fetal personhood" and calls into question the legality of in vitro fertilization (IVF) as well as other fertility medicine services. It also sets the stage for even more policies that punish pregnant people and strip away their rights. It is off-the-rails extreme – and dangerous.

That brings me to the tireless efforts to continue protecting and promoting reproductive freedom in the states that PPMM serves.

In Nevada, Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte is working in coalition with other partner groups in the state, collecting signatures to place a measure on the ballot in November that will enshrine abortion rights into the state constitution. This is similar to California's Prop. 1, the reproductive-rights ballot measure that passed overwhelmingly in 2022.

We've already seen the harm that abortion bans have caused across the country, including in Nevada's neighboring states: Idaho has a total ban, and Utah has a very fragile 18-week ban.

Groups that are gathering signatures for the state constitutional amendment in Nevada are very optimistic that they will have enough to place it on the November 5th ballot – less than 250 days from now.

A clear majority of Nevadans support the right to abortion as well as a constitutional amendment to protect reproductive freedom. According to a 2023 poll by The Nevada Independent, 62% of Nevadans support the amendment – regardless of party affiliation.

To learn more, go to NVReprofreedom.org.

New health centers

To close on a very positive note, I want to catch you up on what's happening with our newest health centers and what great news it is for our patients.

Our center in Reno that opened late last year is nearly three times larger than the former site, including space to provide procedural abortions. It's been embraced by our patients and is far more accessible for those coming from long distances to receive care.

Our new Mar Monte Community Clinic (MMCC) site in East San Jose also opened recently at the end of January.

We will be having ribbon-cutting ceremonies at both of these beautiful buildings in March.

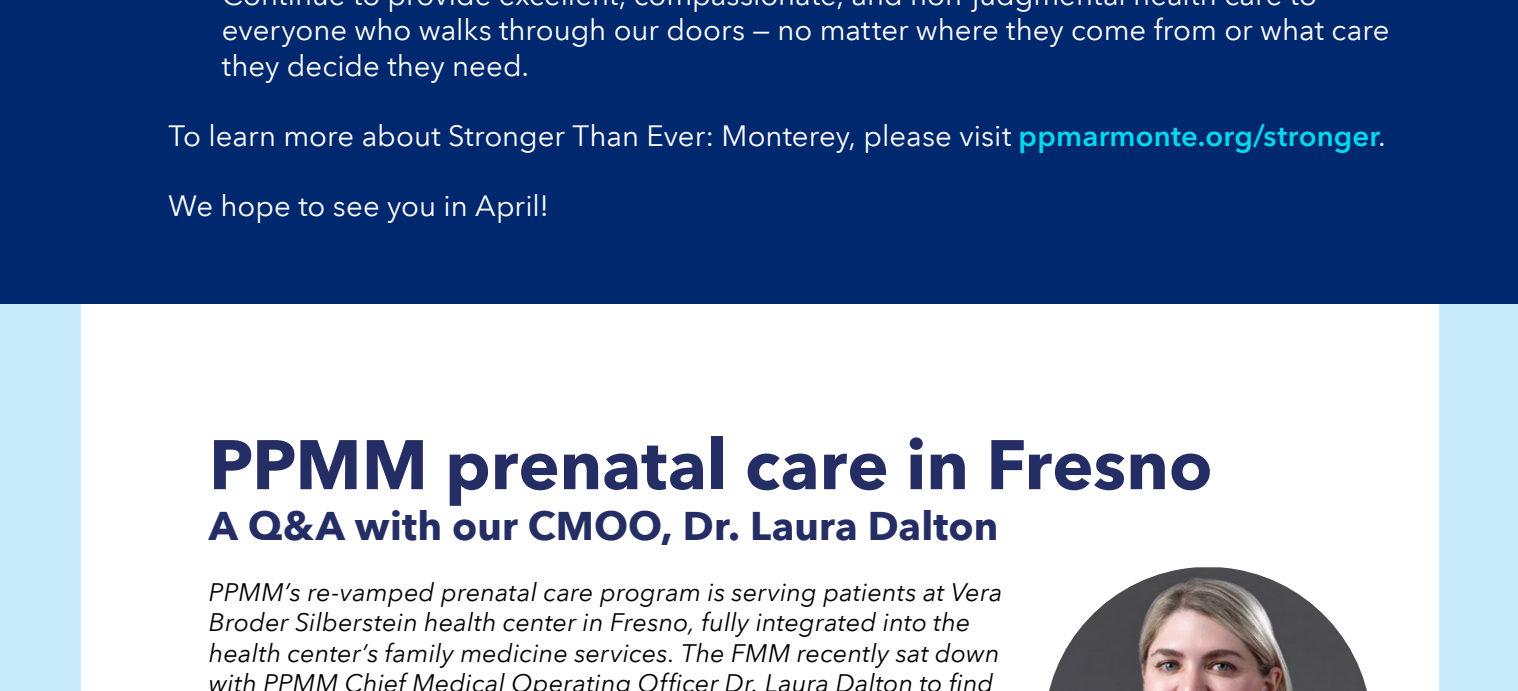
Meanwhile, we are starting our most ambitious health center-construction project yet in downtown Oakland, at a location that's very accessible by BART and bus, including for patients who come in from the airport. Staff at the current Coliseum health center will move in December to the new site, which will be 12,000 square feet and have 19 exam rooms, including space that will serve as a training center for us.

We'll keep you posted at the end of the year about the opening of this new health center that will also have fantastic murals, painted by local artist [Jessica Saboga](#).

As always, I thank you for your tireless support of our patients and making sure we can tell them that PPMM is here for them, no matter what.

In gratitude,

Stacy



We hope you can join us for our first annual **Stronger Than Ever Monterey** luncheon, highlighting how the fall of Roe has impacted PPMM's work – and what's ahead for 2024.

Funds raised at Stronger Than Ever will help PPMM's dedicated providers in our 34 health centers provide a full range of essential care including contraception, cancer-screening, abortion, STI-testing/treatment, gender-affirming care, and family medicine.

Your partnership will help us:

- Provide health care and sex ed to 300,000 people annually,
- Diversify and expand our Digital Learning sex ed programs to reach new audiences,
- Continue playing a critical advocacy role in California and Nevada, two states leading the way to protect and expand reproductive freedom, and
- Continue to provide excellent, compassionate, and non-judgmental health care to everyone who walks through our doors – no matter where they come from or what care they decide they need.

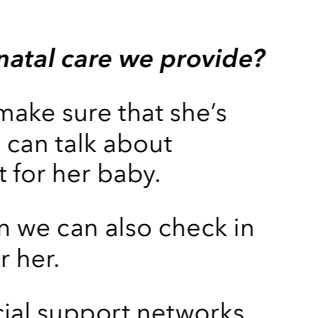
To learn more about Stronger Than Ever: Monterey, please visit ppmarmonte.org/stronger.

We hope to see you in April!

PPMM prenatal care in Fresno

A Q&A with our CMOO, Dr. Laura Dalton

PPMM's re-vamped prenatal care program is serving patients at Vera Broder Silberstein health center in Fresno, fully integrated into the health center's family medicine services. The FMM recently sat down with PPMM Chief Medical Operating Officer Dr. Laura Dalton to find out more.



Full Mar Monte: Dr. Dalton, can you tell us a little about the history of prenatal care services at PPMM and how the program was reimagined?

Dr. Laura Dalton: Prenatal care was provided for many years at PPMM, and, in 2016, the program was put on pause so we could really think and evaluate how best to provide the service, moving forward.

We spent a few years evaluating and optimizing programs so that we could provide prenatal care in a team-based approach. We were really thinking about our patients and how to provide prenatal care in a comprehensive way that integrates into our family medicine program, ensuring the best possible outcomes and the best experience for our patients and their children and partners.

We relaunched the program at this health center because it serves an area of documented need for these services, and we have the ability to have relationships with local delivering providers. Also, we received critical financial support for the program thanks to a generous donation several years ago from Vera Broder Silberstein (whom the Fresno center has been named for).

FMM: What makes our prenatal program special?

Dr. Dalton: Often, when patients are attempting to access prenatal care outside of PPMM, they have to wait until a certain number of weeks or gestational age before that health center will accept them into their prenatal program. At PPMM, we're experts in early pregnancy.



Patient and her baby, featured in an upcoming video about PPMM prenatal care, receiving family medicine services and checking in with Fresno HSS/Prenatal Care Coordinator Roxanna T. – now known to the patient's family as, "Auntie Rosy."

One of the things that's different about our prenatal care is the way that we design the program, the oversight, and the structure of the teams providing the care. It all comes back to this team-based approach where we think about Planned Parenthood Mar Monte health centers being a health home.

There's a whole team of people who are invested in you and your health, your life, and your family. They're working together to really combine different areas of expertise and ways of thinking about prenatal care to create one of the most unique comprehensive programs.

FMM: What is the significance of the prenatal care coordinator role?

Dr. Dalton: The care coordinator is responsible for going through all the education; the what to expect during your prenatal time at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and to do coordination of visits, answer questions, and connect the patient to a provider when there are any types of issues. It really takes that whole team to provide care that's different than someone may experience at another facility.

FMM: How do PPMM family medicine services integrate with the prenatal care we provide?

Dr. Dalton: So, imagine a woman at her first postpartum visit: We can make sure that she's recovered well from her delivery. We can talk about breast-feeding, we can talk about contraceptive needs for her, and then we provide the first newborn visit for her baby.

She doesn't have to take another trip to another health center. And then we can also check in on the partner and other family members that are providing support for her.

This can be a huge change for many members of the family and the social support networks for our patients. So being able to provide comprehensive family medicine to those members, all in the same visit, can be really impactful for patients.

FMM: Do we have plans to provide prenatal care services in our other health centers?

Dr. Dalton: PPMM would like to expand prenatal services, and our staff are eager to provide this care at our other sites. So we are working to be able to do that!

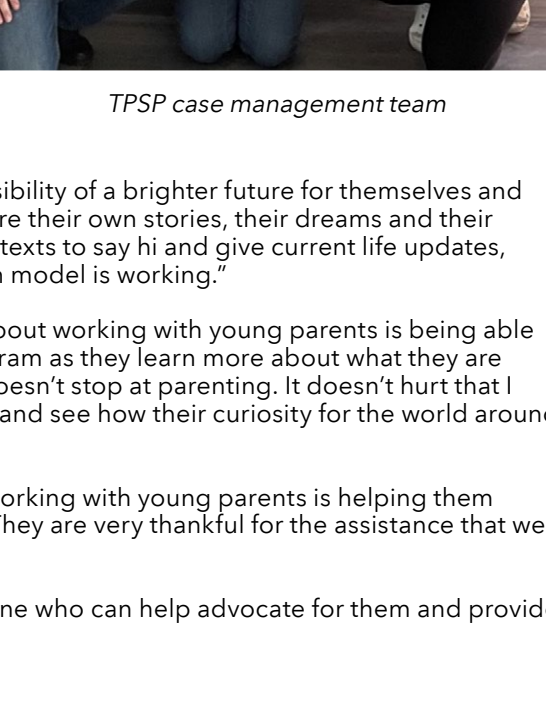
Being Memorable

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

Listening to patients' health stories Clinician Christine S. at MMCC

Here's what a patient had to say about a recent visit with Clinician Christine S. at the Mar Monte Community Clinic (MMCC) in San Jose:

"Christine was incredibly kind and caring. I would definitely recommend her to others needing assistance with their reproductive issues or concerns. Christine made it easy to open up to her about my concerns, without any judgment. She made the entire experience very comfortable for me, and I appreciate her professionalism."



MMCC Clinician Christine S.

One of the first things that MMCC Clinician Christine S. communicates to patients when she comes into the exam room is that she's ready to listen.

"I want to patients to feel that this is a safe space to talk about their situation," she said. "I'm going to answer their questions – but not tell them what to do. I want them to understand right away that I know it's their decision, and I'm going to support that."

Christine said one of the best ways to make patients feel comfortable is to encourage them to say everything they want her to know about what they have come in: "I listen to their stories and let them know that I want them to ask whatever questions they have."

Patients have told her at the end of their appointments how much they appreciated her listening to all their concerns whether it was about recurring symptoms, how medication might affect them, or what would be the best care regimen for the way they live.

"Sometimes patients will come in for reproductive health care, and after I hear their questions, I tell them we can set them up here for primary care as well," Christine said. "I want them to know that this is a place they can come back to, where they will be cared for and always be listened to."

FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

Investing in young parents in Santa Clara County Teen Parent Support Program

What is TPSP?

TPSP is a comprehensive case management program for expectant and parenting youth in Santa Clara County who are up to age 21.

The program has been funded for more than 16 years through an annual services contract of nearly \$1 million from the SCC Public Health Department and Social Services. Through the contract, TPSP provides the county's qualifying youth with a dedicated PPMM Education case manager who uses an approach that promotes resiliency, autonomy, and a sense of purpose.

Case managers support pregnant or parenting youth to set and reach their goals, encourage a healthy and nurturing environment for themselves and their families, and help them to get their high school diploma, GED certificate, or post-secondary training or education.

TPSP's seven case managers visit participants at home, school, and in the community twice a month as well as conducting virtual visits via video calls. (See p. 7, PPMM case managers talking about why they love their work.)

Nearly 4,300 young parents have been served through TPSP and Cal-Learn since 2007, in partnership with the county.

Here's a quick snapshot of one of PPMM's longest-standing programs: the Teen Parent Support Program (TPSP).

Who: Young parents of any gender, regardless of residency status and/or health insurance status

Age: Up to 21-years-old

Where: Santa Clara County

Format: Hybrid in-person and virtual comprehensive case management and youth development program

Languages: English and Spanish with interpreter options for other languages

Duration: Until age 21; most young parents participate for 12- to 18-months on average. If they stop, they can re-enroll

Annual # of participants: 280

TPSP Success Stories

Maria*, 21, was originally referred to TPSP in 2017 when she was 14 and pregnant with her baby. Maria graduated from high school in 2022, while working part-time at McDonald's. Soon after graduation, she started working at an optometrist's office full-time.

Last September, she started a medical assistant program in the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District. In addition, Maria has been offered local employment in health care once she completes her program.

Maria's daughter is now six years old and enrolled in kindergarten, after completing Transitional Kindergarten (TK) last year. TPSP Case Manager Cerina C., who has been Maria's case manager since 2020, reflects: "It has been a great pleasure to work with Maria these past three years and see how our program truly does provide support for our participants."

*Name changed to protect privacy.

What else does TPSP offer young parents?

Resource referrals and connection. Thanks to donations from our generous partners and other community organizations, like The MOCA Foundation in Gilroy, TPSP offers diapers, baby wipes, formula, baby clothes, coats, blankets, baby books, hygiene and personal items upon request and based on available supplies.



With additional support of funders like the MOCA Foundation, a family foundation in Gilroy, TPSP donates young parents' most-requested items including diapers, children's learning toys and books, baby formula, and seasonal clothes.

Does PPMM offer case management services for young parents beyond Santa Clara County?

In FY23, PPMM Education conducted a study to investigate what other programs and resources are available for young parents throughout the affiliate's 42 counties.

Director of Youth Development Jeanette M., who leads TPSP, explained, "If a county doesn't have funding from the state for a comprehensive case management program, such as the Adolescent Family Life Program, there aren't many options."

TPSP Success Stories

Kaitlyn*, 21, enrolled in TPSP at the beginning of her sophomore year at Stanford University. Although she was awarded a full scholarship, she was struggling financially due to: Child-care costs (\$1,000 per month), unreliable financial contributions from her son's father, difficulty navigating Medi-Cal enrollment, and managing her documented depression, anxiety, and toxic stress after experiencing childhood trauma and intimate partner violence as a teen.

In less than a year of participating in TPSP, Kaitlyn was able to:

- Complete the TPSP curriculum
- Finalize her Medi-Cal enrollment
- Enroll her son in subsidized childcare
- Access better carpooling
- Join PPMM's partner organization, Shine Together's young moms' support group
- Begin Stanford wellness coaching
- Apply for CalWORKs* and file for child support
- Complete a summer fellowship in early childhood literacy

With the help of her TPSP case manager, Ashley W., Kaitlyn achieved all this while continuing to excel as a full-time student, focusing on healthy parenting, and supporting her son's development in his verbal skills.

At the start of her junior year of college, Kaitlyn was working toward completing her bachelor's degree in ethnic studies and her master's in education. She is looking forward to returning home to support the migrant worker community through a career in education and advocacy.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

** CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) is a social services program that gives cash aid and services to eligible California families in need. The program serves all 58 counties in the state and is operated locally by county welfare departments.

Learn more about our TPSP team, including their favorite thing about working with young parents:

Jeanette M., P.M.A. Director of Youth Development, 16 years, "All my M.M. Education peers. They bring so much passion, hope, and care for their communities – it keeps me going."

Mindy A., Young Parent Program Manager, seven years, "My favorite thing is celebrating their successes and coaching them through their challenges."

Ashley W., Case Manager, 10 years (in May!), "My favorite thing about my participants is that no matter how many concrete resources and referrals I've offered, when they finish the program, they always say the best thing about working with me has been 'having someone to talk to.'"

Cerina C., Case Manager, 5 years, "My favorite thing about working with young parents is having a front-row seat to them accomplishing goals and hitting pivotal milestones. It's really inspiring to be there with them through those times."

Delia G., Case Manager, 4 years, "My favorite thing is the possibility of a brighter future for themselves and their children. I love being able to hold space for youth to share their own stories, their dreams and their hopes. I love when a youth who graduated from the program texts to say hi and give current life updates, which tells me we are doing something right and the program model is working."

Delia N., Case Manager, 6 years, "One of my favorite things about working with young parents is being able to witness the transformation they make throughout the program as they learn more about what they are capable of and that they can still have big dreams – their life doesn't stop at parenting. It doesn't hurt that I also get the privilege of watching their beautiful babies grow and see how their curiosity for the world around them grows, too."

Leighton R., Case Manager, 1 year, "My favorite thing about working with young parents is helping them connect with supportive services and seeing them succeed. They are very thankful for the assistance that we provide to them, especially our Spanish-speaking youth."

Stephanie M., Bilingual Case Manager, 5 years, "Being someone who can help advocate for them and provide support."



TPSP case management team

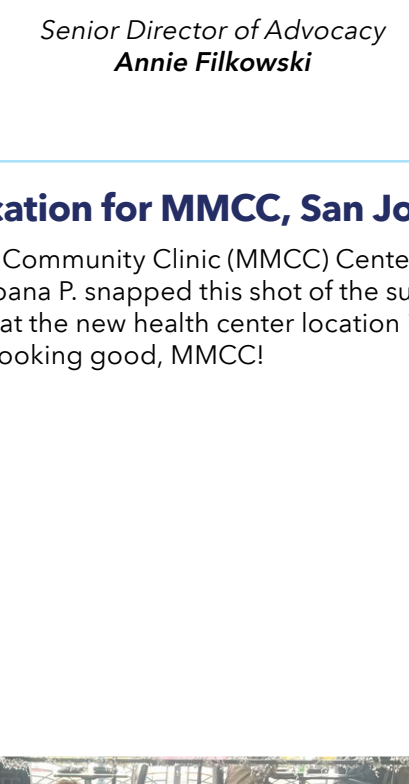
Milestones & Events

New senior director of advocacy in Public Affairs

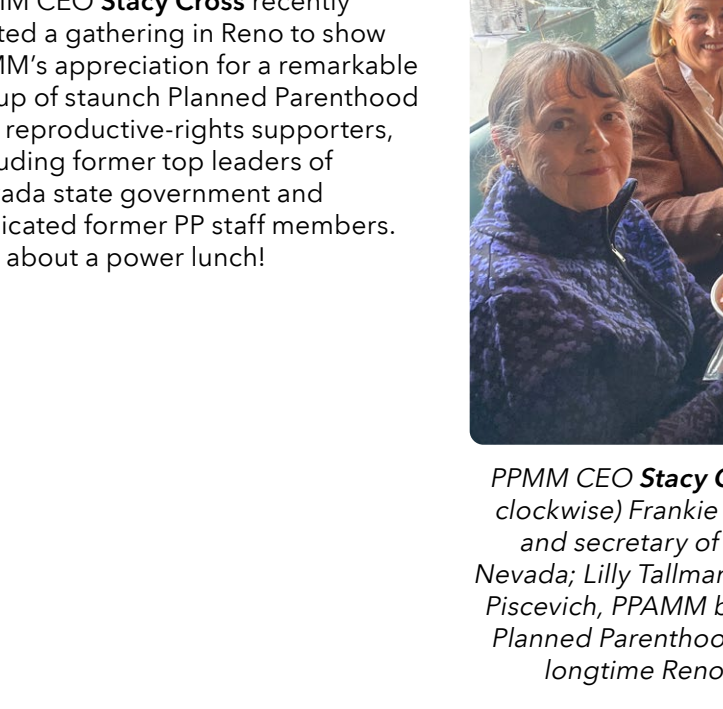
Public Affairs' new Senior Director of Advocacy **Annie Filkowski** recently arrived at PPMM from her home state of Florida, where she has been advocating and organizing to promote and protect reproductive freedom. Most recently, Annie was public policy and political director for the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates.

When she's not at work, Annie says you can find her spending time with her wife and two dogs, outdoors – or sometimes winning with her kickball team!

Welcome, Annie!



Senior Director of Advocacy
Annie Filkowski



Waiting room of new MMCC site at sunrise in San Jose

New location for MMCC, San Jose

Mar Monte Community Clinic (MMCC) Center Manager Joana P. snapped this shot of the sun coming up at the new health center location in San Jose. Looking good, MMCC!

PPMM champions in Reno

PPMM CEO **Stacy Cross** recently hosted a gathering in Reno to show PPMM's appreciation for a remarkable group of staunch Planned Parenthood and reproductive-rights supporters, including former top leaders of Nevada state government and dedicated former PP staff members. Talk about a power lunch!



PPMM CEO **Stacy Cross**, at the head of the table, with (from bottom left, clockwise) Frankie Sue Del Papa, Nevada's first female attorney general and secretary of state; Kate Marshall, former lieutenant governor of Nevada; Lily Tallman; Britton Griffith; Susan Powell; Michael Powell; Margo Piscovich; PPMM board member; Elizabeth Braman; Anne Cory, former Planned Parenthood leader in Nevada; Jill Derby; and Patty Ely, former longtime Reno staffer at Planned Parenthood, including PPMM.

Love Notes

Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

Thank you so much for all of the work you do and for being courageous through difficult times! We appreciate all that you do to help the community, especially how you are open and welcoming to all. The San Mateo community supports you!

– **Supporter from San Mateo County**

There are many who haven't benefited from medical and educational support. Thank you for assisting those in need and providing them with safety and care.

– **Supporter from Sacramento region**

The Big Picture

PPMM co-sponsors Central Valley repro rights event Focus on young activists



Participants in February's "Healing the Past, Shaping the Future Summit" in Visalia, including PPMM Grassroots Organizer **Leina G.** (second from left.)

A recent groundbreaking event in Visalia brought together leaders of the Central Valley Reproductive Justice Coalition – including PPMM, ACT for Women and Girls, The Source LGBTQ+ Center, and others – to offer workshops for young activists who are committed to doing reproductive justice work in their communities.

Inspiring young people to get involved with this work and supporting those who already are is a key part of changing the current harsh national landscape for reproductive rights and access to health care for all.

The "Healing the Past, Shaping the Future Summit" in early February, at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, provided a space for young people and other community members to come together and drive conversations about health care as well as reproductive rights and justice.

In addition to innovative workshops that emphasized valuable opportunities for self-expression, healing, and personal growth through reproductive-justice work, the event included a resource fair offering vital information, support services, and community resources tailored to the needs of young people.

Special art workshops at the event served as healing spaces, offering creative outlets for self-expression and fostering a sense of solidarity and empowerment.

There was also an engaging panel discussion led by youth activists and local elected officials who have dedicated their work to social justice movements in the Central Valley. The panel discussed the importance of getting involved in our communities and the impacts of advocating for access to critical resources in the region.

This event was a celebration of youth empowerment, showcasing the creativity, resilience, and determination of the next generation. It exemplified the power of youth-led activism and community organizing, which also inspires and mobilizes young leaders to continue advocating for reproductive rights and health care-equity.

Feb. 26, Truthout
Advocates in Nevada Want to Get Abortion Rights on the 2024 Ballot

Good Reads

Feb. 26, The Hill
Trump's potential 2025 anti-abortion agenda

Feb. 27, Salon
First abortion, then IVF...and now birth control?

Support your local Planned Parenthood today! **DONATE** >