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**LETTER FROM
OUR CEO**



The Voice

Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood

Summer 2024



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POST-ROE

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**ANNUAL
REPORT**





Letter from CEO, Linda McCarthy

I am excited to share the news that I am retiring as CEO of this incredible organization, effective December 31, 2024. It has been my honor and privilege to lead Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood for the past 21 years, and to have “grown up” working here for a total of 47 years by the time I retire. It’s been an incredible ride and I have loved every minute of it.

I could never have imagined when I walked through the doors on December 27, 1977, as a secretary, that I would be exiting in 2024 as CEO! As a life-long learner, working at MBPP provided me with many incredible opportunities to learn new skills, meet new people, and connect the dots on how to effectively move our work forward, making a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives. It doesn’t get much better than that!

Even when the going was tough, the lessons learned became pathways for new beginnings, ideas, and innovations to be tested. I have had an extraordinary experience working with amazing staff who brought creativity, dedication, and a willingness to not be afraid to fail early and fail often as we forged our own path forward undaunted by challenges - which allowed us to be the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the country to operate an electronic medical record, bill private insurance, and the only affiliate in my tenure to provide obstetrics care. This little engine that could, DID!

I have had the fortune of working under the guidance of and alongside so many incredible members of our Board of Directors. Without that support and partnership, none of the amazing work and innovations MBPP forged ahead with would have been successful. We might be small, but together, we are mighty!

I have been mentored- formally and informally- by remarkable people who would take my calls, listen to my challenges, poke me with probing questions, and help me find and navigate pathways to solutions. I would not be the leader I am without their support, and I can’t thank them enough.

The adage “it takes a village” is the story of MBPP’s life. That village includes the generosity of donors, large and small, who ensured we always had re-

sources to serve whoever walked through our doors. Because of their generosity, we provide care in all three counties we serve (Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan), and own two of our health centers outright.

This village includes YOU, our supporters, who turn out time and again when we are under attack, attending rallies, volunteering your time and

MBPP Mission

To ensure every individual has the knowledge, opportunity, and freedom to advance their sexual and reproductive health.

MBPP Board of Directors

Karen Olstad, *President*
Diana Bob, *Vice President*
Brenda Gitter, *Treasurer*
Deborah Bineza, *Secretary*
Allison Giffen
Cedric Johnson
Angelique Kissas
Marilyn McLean
Devyn Nixon
Deborah North
Kara Smith
Mo West

talents, sending notes of encouragement, or stopping me in the street to say thank you for being here for our community, often adding, “Planned Parenthood saved my life”. We have the best village ever!

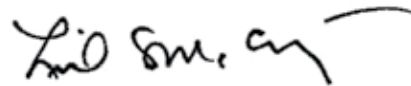
The partnerships and relationships we built over the years helped open doors for us even when so many were blocked because we are a proud abortion provider. We have spoken truth to power, whether that be in standing up to local attacks or fighting the powers-to-be internally at Planned Parenthood, especially during the merger frenzy period when there was intense pressure to consolidate. When I started in 1977, there were almost 200 affiliates, and today there are 49. The fight to remain independent was challenging, but our little engine that could persevered, and today we are one of the healthiest affiliates in the nation, proving that bigger isn’t always better.

I’ve been asked the question, “Why now?”, and the answer is simply this: by the time I retire I will be 69 years old and given that neither of my parents lived to see 70, the time feels right. That, and the fact that the November elections will dictate MBPP’s strategic direction for the next four years (make sure to VOTE!) makes this a perfect time to welcome a new leader who will be in place to craft those plans.

We are fortunate to have a very strong board that is diverse and engaged. They have formed a search committee and are going through the steps necessary to find someone who will take MBPP to the next level. I have total confidence they will succeed, and I look forward to welcoming in the new CEO and doing my best to orient them to MBPP and introduce them to our community.

I have always believed that we are stronger together, so thank you again for the support you’ve provided for MBPP, for the critical services we provide, and for me personally, it truly has been my honor and privilege to be in this together with you. I look forward to my final months of making good trouble and to continuing to support MBPP however I can, always.

Much love to you all,



If you would like to talk or meet with me before my departure in December, please contact me at lmccarthy@mbpp.org.

WAYS TO HELP!

Act

- Vote and encourage others to do the same.
- Learn how to take action by visiting bansoff.org

Reduce Stigma

- Talk about abortion with friends and family.
- Share what motivates you to show up in the fight for abortion access.

Support

- Donate to support medical services, sexual health education programming, and advocacy efforts in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties: wearepp.org/givemt看aker
- Check out volunteer opportunities in your area: weareplannedparenthood.org/a/mbpp_events

A Post Roe Landscape

June 24, 2024 marked two years since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* revoked the constitutional right to abortion. Since that time, volunteers, organizers, policy makers, and legislators have been working at every level to protect and strengthen abortion rights across the country. There have been wins and losses, but one thing is clear: the fight goes on.

Washington State Overview

Every legislative session, Planned Parenthood policy teams from across the state work with elected repro rights champions to expand access, privacy, and safety of reproductive health care in Washington. This essential policy work is supported by volunteers who turn out to Teen Lobby Day in January and Lobby Day in February to share stories and advocate for priority legislation. Here are the wins in 2024:

- MAB Prescription Labeling (HB 2115): protects providers' privacy by allowing them to replace their names with the name of the health care facility on medication abortion prescription labels.
- Expanding Access to PEP (SB 6127): eliminates cost-sharing for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and requires hospitals to have a supply of PEP on site, as well as to have a policy for prescribing PEP in emergency rooms to improve access in rural communities.
- Preserving Preventative Services (HB 1957): codifies the current list of Affordable Care Act preventative services in state law, protecting expansions to preventative health care no matter what happens federally.
- Condom Stealthing (HB 1958): creates legal protections if a partner tampers with or removes a condom or other barrier method without consent.
- Regulating Ultrasound Exams to Protect Patients (SB 6151): requires that ultrasounds be provided either by a licensed provider or someone supervised by a health care provider.

National Overview

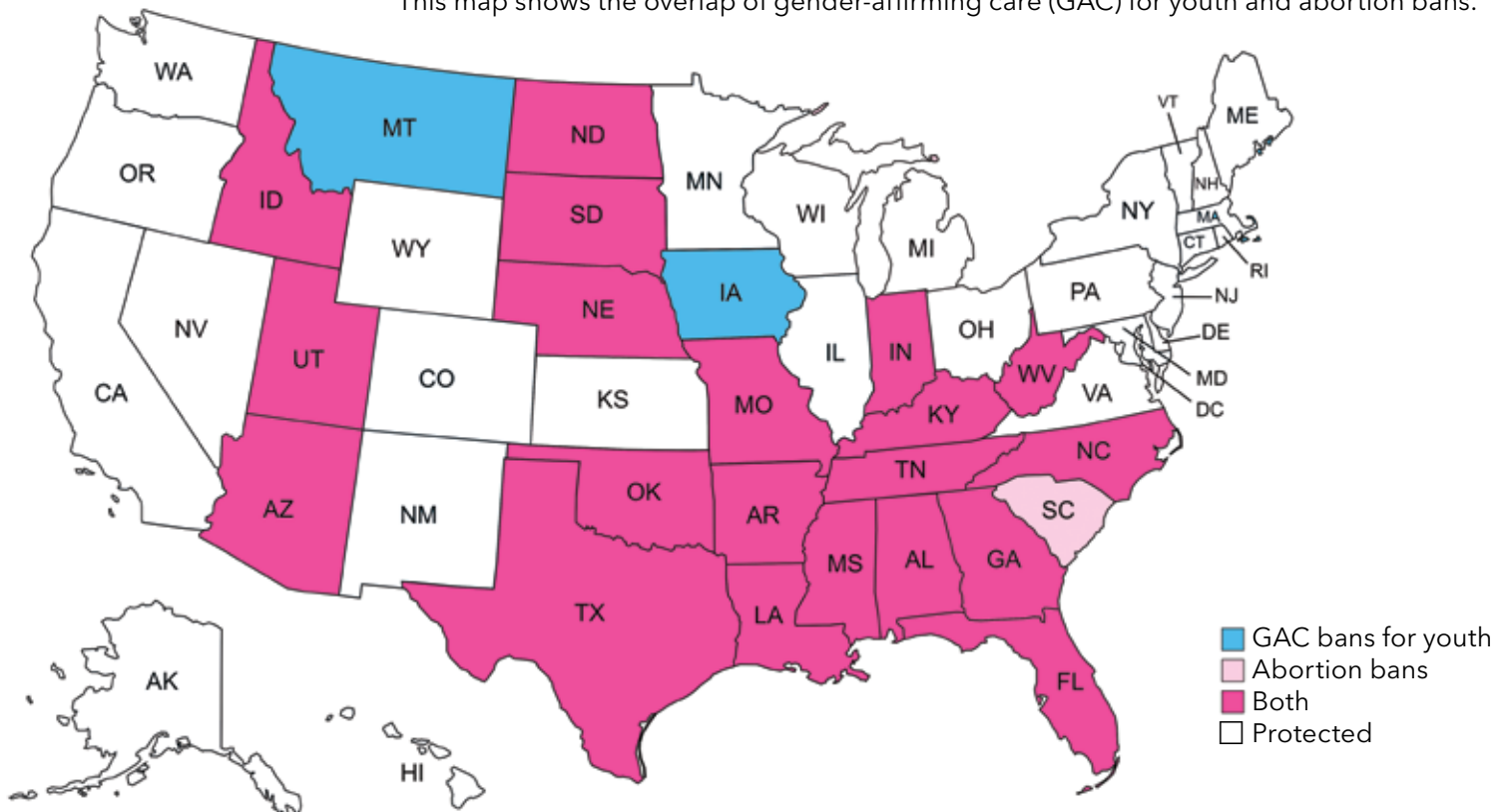
Let's start with the wins! On June 13, 2024, the Supreme Court preserved access to the abortion medication mifepristone, allowing the effective, safe, two-drug regimen for medication abortion to continue as it has for decades. In the 2023 election, voters in Ohio passed a ballot measure that established a constitutional right to abortion. A Wisconsin court ruling allowed abortions to resume in that state last fall. In upcoming elections this year, voters in up to 10 states could vote on abortion rights amendments, with abortion rights on the ballot in Colorado, Florida, Maryland, and South Dakota, and efforts to gather signatures to get on the ballot underway in Arizona, Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, and Nevada. This is good news because when abortion is on the ballot, it wins.

Looking at the current state of abortion access across the country, the landscape remains mixed. 13 states have total bans, seven states have limited abortion access up to 6-18 weeks gestation, and 29 states have access after 18 weeks gestation. Unsurprisingly, the same state politicians who have enacted bans on abortion have also passed bans on gender-affirming care for youth. These politicians don't want pregnant people to control their bodies, and they don't want trans and nonbinary communities to have control over their bodies either.

On the federal legal front, abortion opponents were never going to stop after they overturned *Roe*. At the time of writing, there is a pending case before the Supreme Court that could further ban access to abortion. In this case the court will determine whether the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), a federal law ensuring people in medical emergencies get the care they need at hospital emergency rooms, can be overridden to deny an emergency abortion if their pregnancy is failing and putting their health or life at risk. These attacks are part of a coordinated effort by abortion opponents to undermine people's bodily autonomy and ability to receive the best health care possible. Planned Parenthood organizations continue to do everything possible in states, in D.C., and in the courts to show up, protect, and expand access to sexual and reproductive health care.

Current National Care Bans

This map shows the overlap of gender-affirming care (GAC) for youth and abortion bans.



MBPP Annual Report 2023

12,288 visits



33,505 services

Select Clinical Services

In 2023, our health centers saw 7,770 patients, who collectively received 33,505 services over 12,288 clinical visits.



19,494 STI Testing & Treatment



8,437 Family Planning, Counseling, & Contraception



3,095 Pregnancy Testing



1,805 Cancer Screening & Prevention



674 Abortion Services

7,770 patients

Number of Patients at Federal Poverty Level

100% = \$14,580 for a family of 1 or \$30,000 for a family of 4.

- Up to 100% 2,725
- 101% to 150% 2,148
- 151% to 200% 911
- 201% to 250% 669
- 251%+ 1,220
- Unknown 97



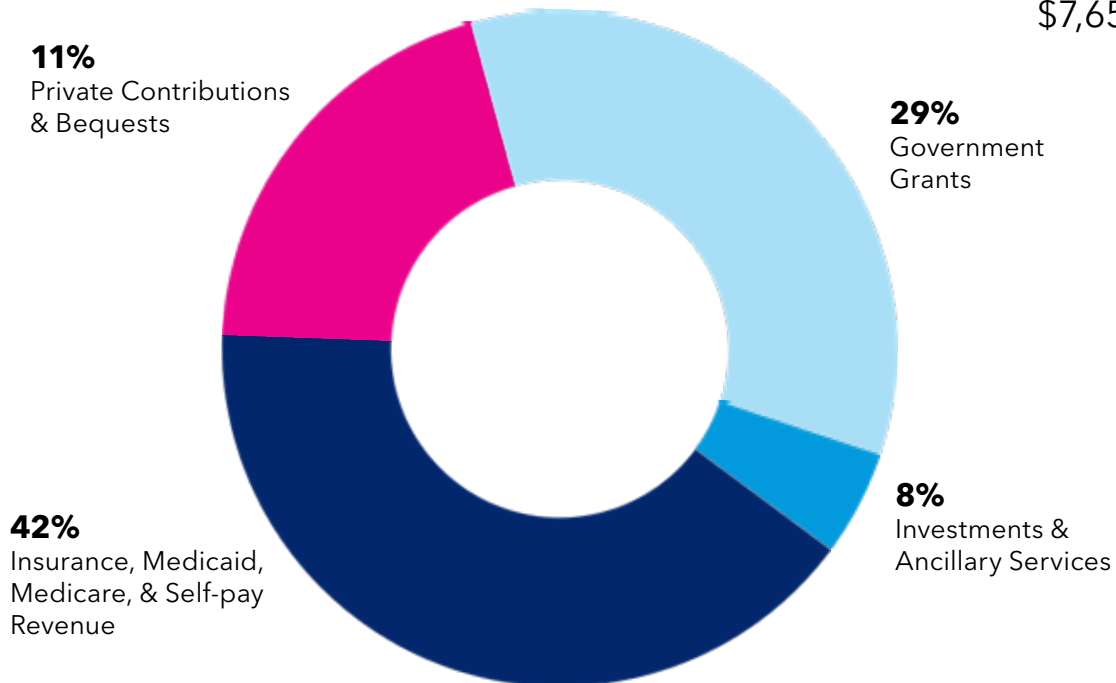
Patient Age Distribution

<17	301	25 - 29	1,719
18 - 19	552	30 - 39	1,880
20 - 24	2,311	40+	1,007

Revenue and Expenses

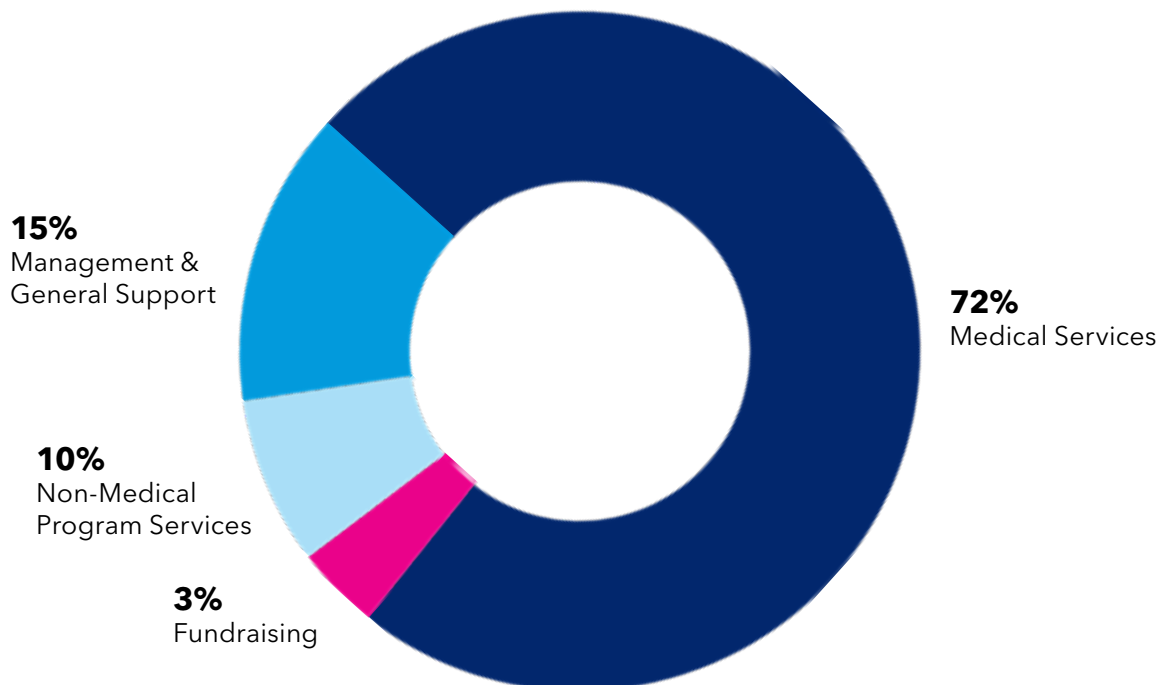
Revenue

\$7,651,088



Expenses

\$5,946,085



Meet Eowyn!

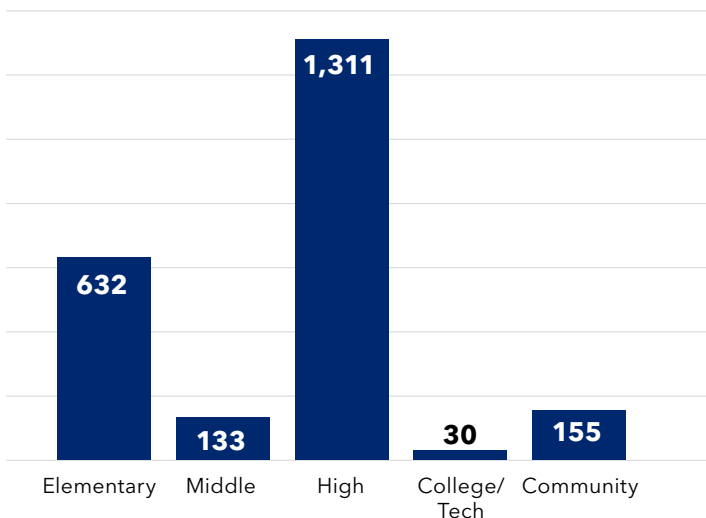


Eowyn Savela joins us as Director of Public Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, managing our community organizing program, health education program, and youth organizing program at Western Washington University. In addition to her background in health care, training, and marketing, Eowyn co-founded a regional civic engagement non-profit and served as board president for four years. Recently, she managed Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater Washington and North Idaho's 2023 endorsements and campaign. At home, Eowyn enjoys time with her husband, two boys, and two cats.

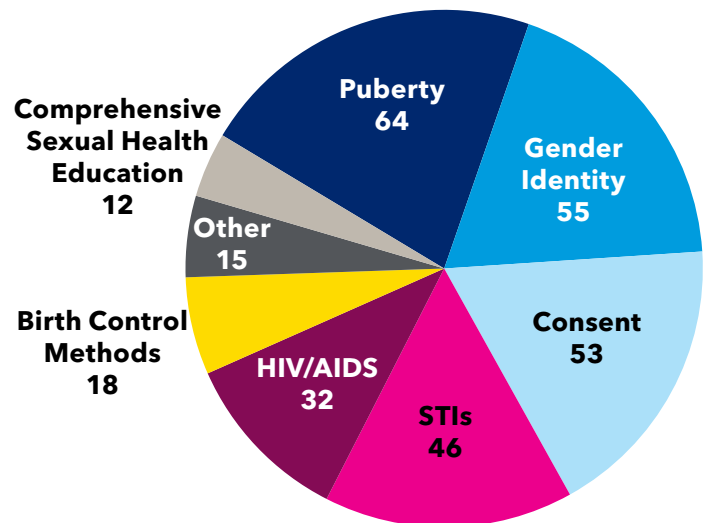
Providing Comprehensive, Inclusive Sex Education

In 2023, MBPP Community Health Educators and Teen Council Peer Educators facilitated sex education and reproductive health lessons to 2,610 students at 36 schools and community organizations throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties. To learn more or for questions, please contact us at education@mbpp.org.

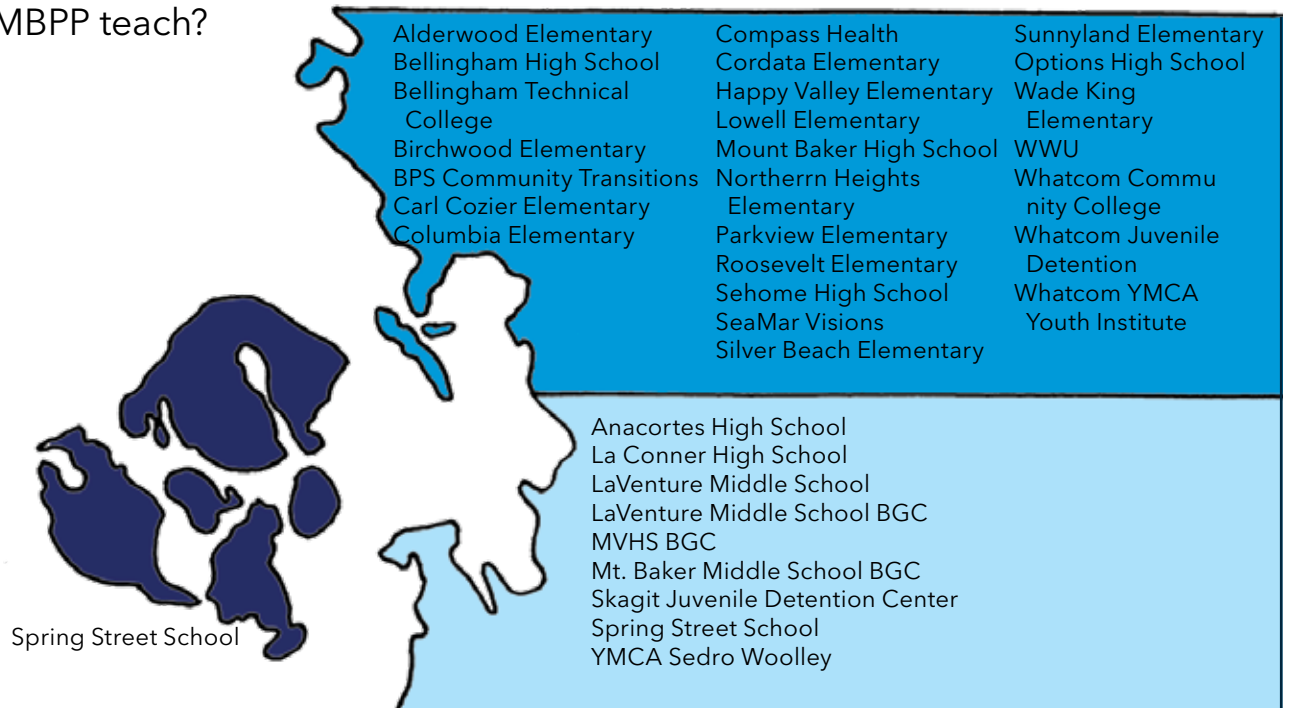
Who did MBPP teach?



What did MBPP teach?



Where did MBPP teach?



Perspectives from a Teacher

"Once again I am communicating with Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood to sing the praises of your health educator, Emma Giri. I feel so fortunate to have Emma return to Cozier and teach my 5th graders the lessons from our newly adopted Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CSHE) lessons. Her delivery is spot on - she's calm, cool and collected! Emma's warm tone and scientific stance invites students to engage with these important topics. Her knowledge seems boundless and she's a wonderful role model for lifelong learning.

I have taught science for many years and presented sexual health lessons to intermediate and middle school students in CA and WA. I'm impressed with the high quality of lesson content and careful messaging - inclusivity and up-to-date information. Emma's thorough preparation and thoughtful response to students' questions is exemplary. I also appreciate her sensitivity to students' emotional reactions to content that might be new or unfamiliar to them. She creates a positive and safe place to explore sexual health topics.

I also appreciate the innovation to CSHE that Planned Parenthood brings to our students and community. Emma's modeling for teachers is integral to the successful implementation of these lessons. I also learned about your high school leadership opportunities to engage interested students in peer teaching opportunities. Keep up the good work and thank you for partnering with Bellingham Public Schools!"

Sincerely, Lisa Conlon (5th grade teacher/Carl Cozier Elementary School)

Teen Council - Why Peer Education?

Why do our Community Health Educators facilitate Teen Council Peer Education programs instead of teaching all of the sex ed lessons themselves? Because it works! When young people see a peer presenting about social situations and pressures with confidence and knowledge, they listen. Teen Council has been a transformative experience for these two 3rd year members:

“Teen council was an extraordinary place for me to learn, teach, and be myself. It is a remarkable place that allows people to come together seamlessly as a group in a way that I never thought could happen. It allowed me to explore and fully realize my passion for teaching and medicine. It allowed me to realize that each individual has the power to make a difference, to help others, to change the world. Our work has changed countless lives and is so important to so many. This experience was irreplaceable, and I am so glad to have been a part of it.

I plan to study phlebotomy and emergency medicine in the future.” -Alora M.



Alora and Ava, Teen Council Peer Educators.



Itzel and Adam host a recruitment table at Mount Vernon High School Science Night.

“Teen Council has changed my life and undoubtedly changed others. This group has sparked a passion in me for reproductive justice and making reproductive healthcare accessible and an equitable space. Because of Teen Council, I have the confidence to educate others while always expanding my own learning. I plan to attend Scripps College to study biochemistry on the pre-medicine track, hopefully to one day pursue a career in reproductive health and continue the work I’ve started as a Planned Parenthood volunteer.” -Ava L.

To learn more or for questions, please contact us at education@mbpp.org.

Health Center Greeters

We were thrilled to launch a Volunteer Greeter program in 2023 at both our Bellingham and Mount Vernon health centers. This new program uses trained volunteers to:

- Welcome patients as they arrive at the Health Center
- Through Greeter presence alone, passively discourage anti-Planned Parenthood protestor interactions with patients
- Collect information about anti-Planned Parenthood protestor activity

"They are a barrier to the noise coming from the protestors. Wonderful presence."
-Staff

"I am just so angry at what is happening, and this feels like a small way to stand up and say no."
- Greeter

"Patients expressed gratitude for our support. Thanked us for being present. This felt important and meaningful."
-Greeter

A father and young daughter brought candy to the Bellingham greeters and said "Thank you for keeping our community safe."
-Anecdote from a greeter

A patient was leaving the building and asked "Are you like safety out here? I love it! Thanks for keeping me safe!"
-Anecdote from a greeter

To learn more or for questions, please contact us at volunteer@mbpp.org



Greeters at the Bellingham health center.

**Volunteer
with us!**

Use this QR
code to fill out
an application.



Meet Caitlin!

Caitlin Blau, DO, joins us as MBPP Medical Director. She graduated from Fairhaven college in 2011 and was a member of Vox (Voices for Planned Parenthood, now PP Gen). She also had her first IUD placed in the Bellingham Health Center!

Caitlin went to medical school at Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana. After residency, she had the privilege of working at Blue Mountain Clinic Family Practice, an independent family medicine and abortion clinic.



In her free time, Caitlin enjoys reading, fiber arts, baking, and sailing.

Coming Soon!
 Emergency Contraception Vending Machines

We understand life can be unpredictable, and sometimes you need quick and easy access to what you need, when you need it. MBPP will be offering convenient 24/7 access to emergency contraception with vending machines located right outside our health center doors.

GYN Care
 Cancer Screening
 STI Testing & Treatment
 Birth Control Counseling
 Family Planning
 Abortion

Healthcare Happens Here.

Helpful Resources

Links:

Voter Registration

www.votewa.gov

Volunteer with MBPP

www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-mt-baker/get-involved-locally/volunteer

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater Washington and North Idaho

www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-advocates-greater-washington-and-north-idaho

Northwest Abortion Access Fund

www.nwaafund.org

National Network of Abortion Funds

www.abortionfunds.org

Abortion Access

chatwithcharley.org

Abortion Providers

www.abortionfinder.org

Reproductive Justice

www.sistersong.net

Center for Reproductive Rights

www.reproductiverights.org

Guttmacher Institute

www.guttmacher.org

Know Your Rights: Reproductive Health Care

www.reproductiverights.gov

Must Read Articles & Studies:

Rachel K. Jones. An estimate of lifetime incidence of abortion in the United States using the 2021-2022 Abortion Patient Survey. *Contraception*, Volume 135 (2024), Article 110445, ISSN 0010-7824.

Abortion Bans Push Care Out of Reach, Fueling Poorer Health Outcomes & Disparities. Planned Parenthood Federation of America. (2024, Jan)

Grace Panetta, Orion Rummler (2023). Lawmakers in blue states are linking protections for abortion and gender-affirming care. *The 19th News*.



Your Gifts Matter!

What Legacy Do You Want to Leave?

Your gift supports medical services, sexual health education programming, and advocacy efforts in your community today and in the future. Thank you!

Ways to Donate

CHECKS

Please make payable to MBPP and mail to:
1509 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

CREDIT CARD | ONLINE

Visit our secure website at:
www.wearepp.org/givemt baker



Donate!

Use this QR code to make your gift today.



WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

If your employer conducts a workplace giving campaign through entities such as United Way, Benevity, YourCause, or TRUiST, you may be able to designate MBPP as a beneficiary.

CORPORATE MATCHING

Many companies will match employee donations. Contact your Human Resources department or business office to inquire about eligibility and matching gifts forms. State employees designation #0316035 and Federal employees designation #78843.

PLANNED GIVING | GIFTS OF STOCK

Please contact your financial advisor, estate planner, or MBPP's Development Office.

Our Development Office is here to assist you in meeting your philanthropic goals.
360.603.7703 | standwithpp@mbpp.org



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360.734.9007

Bellingham Health Center

1530 Ellis Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
877.714.1149

Mount Vernon Health Center

1805 East Division Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
877.714.1149

Friday Harbor Health Center

470 Reed Street, Unit A
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
877.714.1149

Website

www.plannedparenthood.org/mbpp

Follow Us!

 [mtbakerplannedparenthood](https://www.facebook.com/mtbakerplannedparenthood)

 [@mtbakerpp](https://www.instagram.com/mtbakerpp)

In addition to communications from MBPP you may receive appeals directly from Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). Donations to PPFA support national media, advocacy, and international programs, rather than local services.

IMMEDIATE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Visit BansOff.org to learn more about the abortion crisis and how you can take action!

Share your story. Stay loud and active.
Don't stop speaking out after this moment.
ppact.io/sharestory

Encourage family and friends to vote! voter.votewa.gov

