



*“Planned Parenthood has always spoken to me in a special way — it represents a set of core values that I share deeply.”*

**ELIZABETH PREBLE**  
PPRM DONOR AND VOLUNTEER

## **Donor Spotlight: Elizabeth Preble**

When a patient seeks care at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM), their first interaction is typically with one of our volunteer patient escorts. Escorts stand outside the entrance of our health centers to greet patients and ensure they are safely able to enter without harassment from protesters. For patients traveling thousands of miles to access abortion care, a patient escort marks the final step of their long journey.

Among our dedicated volunteers, you'll find Elizabeth Preble, a long-time resident of New Mexico and a PPRM donor, looking to expand her engagement with a cause that has been a motivating force throughout her life.

“After retirement, I was exploring ways that I could further my involvement and the patient escort role really excited me,” Elizabeth explains. “Greeting patients when they first step out of their vehicles, some of them driving more than 16 hours, and then seeing them return to their vehicles after their care with the calm, reassurance, and confidence that staff instill, you really are able to experience a very special side of PPRM’s work.”

Planned Parenthood has been a part of Elizabeth’s life for decades. Following her college graduation, she led education initiatives at a Planned Parenthood affiliate in Michigan, connecting teens to medically accurate and trusted sexual education at a pivotal time in their lives. This experience went on to shape the entirety of Elizabeth’s professional career.

“Throughout my career, I worked in the fields of, reproductive health, maternal and child health, and HIV/AIDS in international settings. Planned Parenthood’s philosophy had never left me. So, when I retired, it was no surprise that I looked for ways to get involved locally,” Elizabeth shares.

Elizabeth turned her attention toward giving back to the New Mexican community she’s called home for 25 years. This search for deeper involvement was only amplified by the passing of Texas’s Senate Bill 8 in 2021 and the fall of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, as New Mexico quickly became a safe haven for patients seeking abortion care.

“I have a passion for New Mexico and the longer I’ve been here, the deeper it’s become,” Elizabeth explains. “Now, seeing New Mexico serve patients from other states where care is banned has been extraordinary. The determination and competence that PPRM staff hold is reaffirming, and I wanted to be a part of that.”

As an organization and community, we share an immense amount of gratitude for Elizabeth, and supporters like her, who commit their voice, time, and resources to PPRM. This dedication ensures that patients near and far will continue to have access to the care they need – no matter what.

# HEALTH CARE



## PPRM's Expansion of Care: Returning to Las Cruces, NM



We are thrilled to announce that our new health center in Las Cruces is open and providing essential sexual and reproductive health services, including medication abortion.

***"We are so grateful for the opportunity to provide health care in this community once again," said CEO Adrienne Mansanares.***

We had our sights set on Las Cruces, New Mexico even before our neighboring state of Texas – the second most populous state in the country – passed Senate Bill 8, putting in motion the *Dobbs* decision that overturned 50 years of precedent set by *Roe v. Wade*. With more patients forced to travel across state lines to seek abortion care in safe haven states, the location of our health center in Las Cruces couldn't be more perfect.

Prior to opening doors, we had thoughtful conversations with our community partners in Las Cruces. We conducted more than 25 one-on-one conversations with BIPOC\* leaders across New Mexico, including our partners at Bold Futures, Indigenous Women Rising, Tewa United Women, and Strong Families New Mexico. We are grateful for their guidance during this critical time for reproductive health care.

Our providers are continuing to feel the weight of state abortion bans, as more out-of-state patients continue to travel to New Mexico for care. Right now, out-of-state abortion patients from Texas make up 57% of the people seen in our health centers.

While we are proud to be a safe haven for patients traveling long distances, we are deeply impacted by the harmful policies being enacted across the country.

***"The staff made me feel so comfortable. They offered emotional support for traumas in the past and support in the weeks after my abortion. I'm really grateful a safe place like this exists to feel comfortable and heard. Thank you for all the work you are doing," said a recent Las Cruces patient.***

Our patient care staff work tirelessly to provide essential health care and compassionate support to all of our patients, especially those who must overcome logistical and financial barriers to access services. With the help of our generous community of donors and supporters, we can continue meeting the needs of our patients during this ever changing landscape.

## Wyoming: Care at Your Fingertips

Right now, most Wyoming patients have to travel to our health center in Fort Collins, Colorado to access care from PPRM. As Planned Parenthood's virtual care app, PPDirect, continues to expand across Wyoming, patients will no longer have to drive long distances for services such as birth control, emergency contraception (EC), and urinary tract infection (UTI) treatment.

Patients can explore birth control options and make their selection directly through the app. PPDirect will ship birth control pills and EC directly to a patient's door and a prescription for the patch, ring, or UTI treatment can be sent to a local pharmacy for pick up. PPRM is committed to ensuring that everyone has unrestricted access to sexual and reproductive health care, and we are grateful to continue offering options like PPDirect to expand patient services.





# ADVOCACY AND ACTION

## A Generation of Action

These are historic times. Unlike ever before, we are seeing engaged and passionate young activists amplifying their voices for reproductive freedom. Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGenAction) is a dynamic movement of young people across identities and issues that organizes with, by, and for their generation to advance reproductive rights, health, and justice.

On college campuses across our region, these activists are leveraging their expertise in youth organizing, leadership development, voter engagement programs, and infrastructure building to motivate, empower, and provide resources to fellow young people. Key issue priorities include equitable access to reproductive health care services, such as abortion and gender-affirming care, and access to culturally competent and scientifically accurate sex education, including LGBTQ+ issues and consent education.

**In Colorado,** our campus chapters are bringing activists up the ladder of engagement through action groups across the state. We're thrilled to share that we are now engaging change makers at three college campuses: Colorado State University, University of Colorado Boulder, and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical

Campus, where the next generation of medical professionals are using their voice to protect and expand reproductive health care and rights.

**In Southern Nevada,** we've welcomed two new campus chapters at Nevada State University and University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). These groups are increasing access to health care in spaces for young adults through on-campus HIV testing and engagement circles that address abortion stigma. These tight knit community engagement groups are not only working to further destigmatize abortion, but are also unlocking opportunities and having life-changing impacts on our chapter members. The UNLV chapter president shared: "This engagement has changed our lives and given us many opportunities that we may otherwise not have had."

**In New Mexico,** our campus chapters show that activism, engagement, and a little bit of fun go hand-in-hand. Our University of New Mexico Generation Action group recently hosted their eighth annual Sex Week, with engaging Halloween themed events such as Smashing Stigma, Creepy Crafts, and Spooky Sex Ed Carnivals, as they continue to break down the stigma associated around sex.



PPGenAction students tabling at the University of New Mexico (UNM) campus.



UNM's PPGenAction member and supporter at the Smashing Stigma event.



Students attending UNM's PPGenAction event, Paint & Sip.



Illustrations from the Responsible Sex Education Institute (RSEI) Sexual Health Educator Program curriculum.

## Creating a Safe Space for Questions

Last fall, our sex educators observed an increase in the number of questions being asked by students as they re-entered classrooms and settled into their academic routines. Due to the loss of valuable classroom time during the pandemic surge and the rising influence of the internet in students' lives, the need for comprehensive sex education has continued to grow.

PPRM's sex education programming offers medically accurate, trusted information for both adults and young people. Parents and caretakers don't always know how to address questions from young people, and with the growth of technology and social media, it can be challenging to reach today's youth in a safe, accurate, and technologically relevant way.

Imagine you're a child looking for an answer to a question, but you're too embarrassed to ask. *Is this thing I'm experiencing normal? How do I navigate this relationship? Where do I go for help?* We know young people use the internet to research these questions but it doesn't go without risk of being exposed to misinformation.

Our educators are trained to supplement (and often correct) what youth find on their own and respond to their questions with age-appropriate, clinically

accurate answers. A simple yet timeless tool that our educators have used in classrooms for decades, is the anonymous questions box. Students can submit their questions on a piece of paper and the educator will answer all the questions for the class to hear.

While every question is unique, educators have noticed common topics that questions fall under: consent, communication, and puberty. Here is an example of how a PPRM educator might respond to a common question:

***How do I say no or yes?*** "Everyone has their own way of communicating. When it comes to consent and saying yes or no to sexual activity, it's important to be clear and specific. If a person wants to say no to a specific sexual activity, they could say something like 'I don't want to do that, but it feels good when we do \_\_\_, so let's try that instead.'"

Students report that they feel safe asking questions anonymously and benefit from their own questions and those of their classmates. This fosters a safe and inclusive space for students and their peers to learn about their bodies, dispel myths that perpetuate stigma, and ask questions free from judgment and unnecessary shame.



# EVENTS



## Champions of Choice

On August 3, we gathered in Denver, CO at Champions of Choice to celebrate and recognize leaders working to protect abortion access. We heard from the co-founder and executive director of Shout Your Abortion, Amelia Bonow and honored the legislative sponsors of the Safe Access to Protected Health Care Package. Together, sponsors and attendees raised over \$36,000 during this Planned Parenthood Votes Colorado event.



## Cocktails for a Cause

Supporters and partners came together in Jackson, WY on August 23 to discuss PPRM's expansion of reproductive and sexual health care in Wyoming and heard from President & CEO Adrienne Mansanares on the landscape of abortion access across the nation and in the PPRM region. The Cocktails for a Cause community raised nearly \$37,000 for patients and services.



## The Rosé Resistance

Planned Parenthood votes New Mexico (PPVNM) hosted a lively event on September 14 in Albuquerque, NM. During The Rosé Resistance we heard from the President & CEO Adrienne Mansanares on the legislative sponsors of House Bill 7, the Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care Freedom Act. Donors raised over \$24,000 towards PPVNM's important work fighting for access to reproductive health care across New Mexico.



## Party on Purpose!

Lastly, but certainly not least, our colorful event on September 27 in Las Vegas, NV, Party on Purpose!, proved a success with supporters, donors, and community members raising over \$52,000 for patients and services in Southern Nevada! In addition to entertainment from emcee and drag queen, Andrew Ryan, guests enjoyed a panel discussion from President & CEO Adrienne Mansanares and PPRM staff.

**Pictured top:** President & CEO Adrienne Mansanares and speaker Amelia Bonow at Champions of Choice.

**Pictured top middle:** President & CEO Adrienne Mansanares speaking to supporters at Cocktails for a Cause.

**Pictured bottom middle:** Executive Leadership Team member Sarah Taylor Nanista, Board Chair Rebekah Gallegos, and PPVNM supporter at The Rosé Resistance.

**Pictured bottom:** PPRM supporters taking photos at the photo booth at Party on Purpose!



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