

## Donor Spotlight: Virginia Henry

Virginia Henry believes everyone should have control over their own pregnancies. She is a proud donor to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) and a passionate advocate for bodily autonomy.

Although, this hasn't always been the case. While Virginia is now a long-term resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, she grew up in Virginia, and her belief system mirrored those of her surroundings – her family members, church congregation, and community.

"I was one of six in a very big family, and we were all active in the Evangelical Christian Church," Virginia shares. "I grew up very pro-life."

The anti-abortion beliefs of her childhood followed into her adult life. It wasn't until she started volunteering at a crisis pregnancy center (CPC) that she began to shift her outlook.

"I was really involved with a church that was pro-life and actively supported [crisis] pregnancy centers," Virginia recalls. "After watching a recruitment presentation from a fellow church member, I decided to volunteer. I started sitting in on the consultations and almost immediately I had to stop."

Virginia started to witness the deceptive actions at the CPC and quickly realized that it was a dangerous place for people seeking legitimate health care services. CPCs lure people in with the promise of free health care services, support, and resources, but in reality, their overall mission is to dissuade people from accessing abortion care and other reproductive health services, such as contraception. They often achieve this goal through pressure, shame, and false information. These tactics prevent patients from making accurately informed decisions, and endanger their health by delaying access to necessary care.

"What I was seeing was a bait and switch, where patients are lured in with all this love and kindness. And then once the



baby was born the support just stopped," Virginia recalls. "Witnessing these consultations, I thought to myself 'how can we tell these patients to make a decision that would affect not only the rest of their own lives but the child's life?' I saw a lot of physical and mental trauma. I couldn't keep doing it with a clear conscience."

While decades later Virginia's views are drastically different than those of her early life, she offers words of advice for people who had a similar upbringing to her own:

**“ I want people to know how personal this decision is – that there are so many factors that go into seeking abortion care, and those factors should be between the patient and their doctor.**

**VIRGINIA HENRY**  
PPRM DONOR & VOLUNTEER

As she reflects on her journey, Virginia is proud to live in a state that offers compassionate and medically accurate health care to patients across New Mexico and beyond.

"I'm so thrilled that New Mexico continues to support abortion care. The new health center in Albuquerque is a testament to PPRM's commitment. Patients can be reassured that they are going to a center that is knowledgeable, and the information they are receiving is accurate, no matter the pregnancy outcome."

# HEALTH CARE



## Expansion of Gender-Affirming Care

At PPRM, we take immense pride in providing compassionate health care to LGBTQ+ communities in a safe and inclusive environment where every patient can be themselves. We know that when people of all identities are able to access the health care they need to live full and happy lives, without political interference, our communities thrive. That's why, in the face of hundreds of bills targeting LGBTQ+ people in state legislatures across the country, we are so proud of our ongoing commitment to expanding access to gender-affirming care across the region.

Since the *Dobbs* decision, attacks on trans people seeking gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) have escalated. As of April, twenty-four states have passed bans on trans people's ability to access gender-affirming care. It is amid these growing political attacks that PPRM is delighted to share that we have launched GAHT at two additional Colorado health centers – Colorado Springs and Salida – bringing our total to four health centers offering this important life-affirming health care!

PPRM's Colorado Springs health center, located in Colorado's second largest city, expands our urban reach, while our Salida health center, in the heart of the Rockies, is a key access point for rural patients.

“ Providing GAHT care, especially in a rural setting, shows gender-diverse folks that they matter, that we see them and we care.

– SALIDA HEALTH CENTER MANAGER

We know there is great need for GAHT in our communities, especially given the increase in bans targeting trans health care. Over the last two years, we have experienced a 20 percent increase in patients seeking gender-affirming care and are beginning to see a growth in out-of-state GAHT patients, primarily from Wyoming, Texas, and Arizona.

The experience of someone traveling for GAHT is quite different than someone traveling for abortion care. When patients come from out of state for abortion services, they spend a day or two in our state, receive their care, and then return home. Gender-affirming hormone therapy is an ongoing course of care and most people do not have the resources to cross state lines every month. Consequently, we are starting to see patients uprooting their whole lives – breaking their leases and leaving their jobs – to move to safe haven states like Colorado and New Mexico where their right to receive the care they need, without fear or judgment, is protected.

Trans people deserve access to inclusive health care that allows them to make decisions about their lives and futures with dignity. This GAHT expansion in Colorado Springs and Salida will increase access in the communities that need this care the most. At PPRM, trans health care is basic health care – 365 days of the year!



# EDUCATION & COMMUNITY



## In Case You're Curious (ICYC) Goodbye

In 2009, PPRM's Responsible Sex Education Institute (RSEI) launched the confidential textline – In Case You're Curious (ICYC) – making medically accurate answers available to young people everywhere. So, no matter where they lived, they could access personalized, confidential answers to their questions about sex, anatomy, gender identity, sexuality, relationships, and so much more!

Over the last 15 years, ICYC has served as a model for organizations across the country, including Planned Parenthood Federation of America. With the success and popularity of the textline, we published a book in 2019, *In Case You're Curious*, that talks about the questions from young people and the answers from our trained experts. The book normalizes questions regarding sex and sexuality – no one should be embarrassed to ask questions about their body, their choices, or their sexuality.

Starting in 2020 and with the rise of social media platforms like TikTok and Snapchat, we have seen a corresponding decrease in ICYC users. With the decline in users and impact, we have made the hard decision to sunset ICYC and direct our efforts toward continuing to educate young people through our virtual sex education programs and connect with them through fun and dynamic social media content.

It's been an amazing 15-year journey, and we are so proud of the many sex ed questions we addressed through text. We reached over 19,000 participants, with over 100,000 interactions. That's a lot of medically accurate, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate sex education to celebrate!

As we bid farewell to ICYC, we would like to thank you for your continued support over the years. Please enjoy some of our all-time favorite ICYC questions, and stay curious!







## ADVOCACY & ACTION

**BREAKING** FRIDAY, MARCH 22

**Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon vetoes anti-abortion bill HB-148.**

"I am overjoyed that Governor Gordon vetoed this harmful bill, especially given the overwhelming support it had within the legislature. This is a critical victory for reproductive rights in our state. As we continue to track ongoing litigation and consider the future of abortion care in Wyoming, I am relieved that-for now- Wyomingites can continue to access the services they need without being forced to jump through medically unnecessary, political obstacles."

- Shelby Read PPRM Board Member in Wyoming

"We are thrilled that Gov. Gordon vetoed HB-148, a law that would have added unnecessary burdens for both patients and providers. This is a big win for women, families, and the Pro-Choice movement in Wyoming"

- Dr. Rene Hinkle PPRM Board Member in Wyoming

### Wyoming

Since the *Dobbs* decision, the future of Wyoming's abortion access status has been in a state of uncertainty. The near-total abortion ban passed by the legislature last year is on hold, as an ongoing court battle determines its constitutionality.

While a date for a final decision remains unknown, a recent decision brought a moment of optimism. In March, Governor Mark Gordon vetoed HB-148, an anti-abortion bill that would have required clinics that provide procedural abortion care to be licensed as ambulatory surgical centers. This decision guaranteed that, for now, the only facility in the state to provide procedural abortion care will remain open and, while limited, patients can still access abortion care in the state.

### Colorado

PPRM's advocacy efforts wouldn't be possible without the intentional time our organizers spend connecting with and mobilizing our communities. This spring our Colorado community organizers have been doing just that – sharing vital reproductive and sexual health resources, advocating for abortion access, and engaging with the future of the movement, our Planned Parenthood Generation students, across the Centennial State.

This past quarter we enthusiastically participated in a wide variety of community outreach activities across Colorado. This included advocating for Harm Reduction Day of Action, supporting and endorsing HB24-1164 "Free Menstrual Products to Students" bill, and hosting Dia del Amor y la Amistad, a queer mixer that welcomed more than 40 community members as they built relationships and celebrated queer joy.

### New Mexico

With support from our partners, PPRM continuously fights for reproductive health and freedom during legislative sessions across our region. These action-packed weeks shape legal landscapes, directly impacting the health, safety, and future of our communities.

Reproductive justice took center stage at New Mexico's 2024 legislative session. Due to the unwavering dedication of our partners and organizers, we celebrate the passage of two priority bills: the Benjamin Higher Education Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention Act, which requires trauma-informed policies and responses by post-secondary educational institutions that receive state funds; and the Health Care Consolidation Oversight Act, which requires the review of proposed health care mergers, acquisitions, and other material changes in control of health care entities.

### Southern Nevada

Southern Nevada is using the power of deep canvassing to change hearts, minds, and voting outcomes. Deep canvassing, a scientifically proven method to influence constituent outcomes at the polls, utilizes empathy and understanding to bridge gaps across differences. Our community organizers host 30-minute conversations with moderate to conservative voters about their views on abortion. These interactions help our teams understand the motivations preventing these voters from supporting abortion access at the polls. While deep canvassing requires a longer time commitment, the impact we're seeing is proving powerful – we've already held 100 conversations in the first two months! These discussions will inform how we reach more undecided voters with a first of its kind emphasis on Spanish speaking constituents.



## EVENTS

### Toast of the Town

On January 25, the atmosphere at Santa Fe's La Fonda Hotel was electric as advocates from across the state came together for Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico's (PPVNM) annual Toast of the Town. More than 140 passionate individuals braved the cold winter night to support PPVNM's vital work in safeguarding New Mexico's role as a beacon for abortion care in the Southwest.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Walk the Talk Awards. Champions Rebekah Gallegos, PPRM Action Fund Board Chair, and Mark Baker, esteemed attorney at Peifer, Hanson, Mullins & Baker, P.A., along with the Attorney General of New Mexico, Raúl Torrez, were honored for their unwavering commitment to advocating for abortion rights.

It was a night filled with passion, purpose, and a shared commitment to reproductive rights, leaving everyone energized and empowered to continue the fight for a more just and equitable future.

### Join us at our upcoming Event Opportunities!

**Cocktails for a Cause in Jackson, Wyoming**  
Benefiting Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains  
The evening of Wednesday, August 14  
Learn more and RSVP at [pprm.org/Cocktails](https://pprm.org/Cocktails)

**Champions of Choice in Denver, Colorado**  
Benefiting Planned Parenthood Votes Colorado  
The evening of Thursday, August 28  
Learn more and RSVP at [pprm.org/Champs](https://pprm.org/Champs)

**Party on Purpose! in Las Vegas, Nevada**  
Benefiting Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains  
The evening of Thursday, September 12  
Learn more and RSVP at [pprm.org/POP](https://pprm.org/POP)

**The Rosé Resistance in Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
Benefiting Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico  
The evening of Thursday, September 26  
Stay tuned for more information to come.

**Questions about events?**  
Email [events.development@pprm.org](mailto:events.development@pprm.org).



**Pictured top:** Attendee Jeff Zilka and PPRM Action Fund Chair and honoree, Rebekah Gallegos share a laugh.

**Pictured middle:** PPRM employee Carole updates the fundraising progress for Toast of the Town.

**Pictured bottom:** A group of supporters enjoying Toast of the Town.



7155 EAST 38TH AVENUE  
DENVER, COLORADO 80207

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 793  
Denver, Colorado

### Want Less Mail?

The Donor Dialogue newsletter is available via email. If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to [info.development@pprm.org](mailto:info.development@pprm.org).

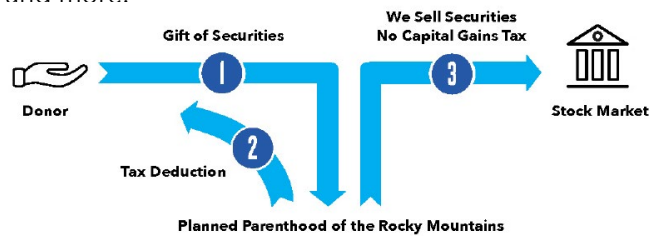


### Planned Giving

Your investment in Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains matters! Make a gift for the future of PPRM and become a member of our legacy society, **Guardians of Choice**. If you have already included PPRM in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may recognize you as a member. Email [info.development@pprm.org](mailto:info.development@pprm.org) to let us know or to learn more.

### Looking for other ways to give back?

Visit [pprm.org/WaysToGive](http://pprm.org/WaysToGive) to learn about personal fundraising, donating crypto-currency, auto donations, and more.



@PPRockyMountains  
@pprm\_act



@PPVotesColorado  
@PPVotesNewMexico



/PPoftheRockyMountains  
/PlannedParenthoodofSouthernNevada  
/PlannedParenthoodVotesColorado  
/PlannedParenthoodVotesNewMexico