



Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri

Summer 2007

## RHYTHM&RIGHTS Fundraiser at 18th & Vine

Friends of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri gathered Tuesday, May 15th for a truly star-studded affair. "I've Got Rhythm, I've Got Rights" showcased two champions of our cause, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and PPFA National President, Cecile Richards. Legendary blues musician, Marcia Ball ended the extraordinary evening with a special performance at the Gem Theatre. The successful event raised over \$55,000 for our organization.

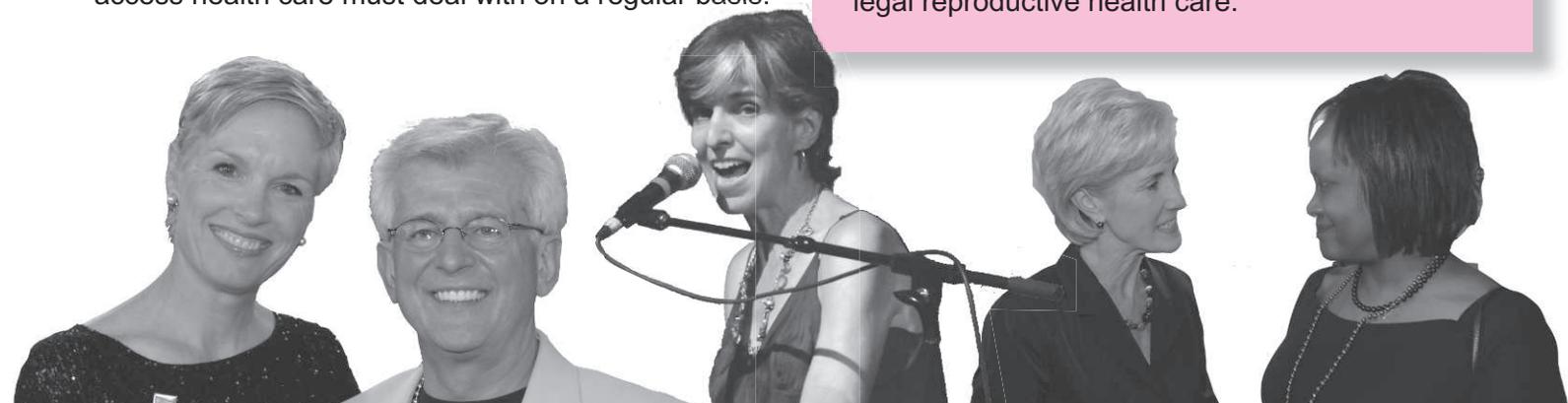
Both Cecile and Governor Sebelius spoke passionately about the challenges Planned Parenthood faces, specifically citing the more than 240 "uninvited guests" lining the streets of the Jazz District. Governor Sebelius walked right through these unpleasant protestors and didn't miss a beat. In fact, both women mentioned in their remarks how meaningful it is for supporters to experience first hand what PPKM staff and thousands of women trying to access health care must deal with on a regular basis.

The protestors didn't dampen our good time. We had another reason to celebrate - the Governor's birthday! Along with her husband and son, Governor Sebelius celebrated her special day with close friend, Marcia Ball.

Marcia is a native Louisianan who plays Cajun rock-and-roll blues. By the end of the evening, hundreds of PPKM supporters were dancing in a conga line around the concert hall. Leading the dancing pack was President and CEO, Peter Brownlie, and health center manager, Kristin Kush. The PPKM staff sure know how to have fun!

Many thanks to all of our donors and the Rhythm & Rights co-chairs, Helen and Frank Wewers, and Lawrence Young and Stacey Daniels-Young, as well as the Host Committee. It was a wonderfully fun and informative evening. All three of our special guests can't wait to join us again!

**JEERS** TO the 240 protestors that lined 18th Street for demonstrating the hurdles women throughout this country face every day when trying to access safe, legal reproductive health care.



VERLAND PARK LAWRENCE COLUMBIA JEFFERSON CITY WICHITA HAYS KANSAS CIT

# VIEWPOINT

## From the President

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I am so fortunate to be able to work for a cause that I have supported personally my entire life and professionally for over 30 years. After all this time, it still never ceases to amaze me how quickly the terrain can shift when dealing with reproductive rights. There were two days last month that epitomized this up-and-down battle that we all fight every day.

### Rhythm & Rights

**11:11** PPFA National President, Cecile Richards arrives in Kansas City.

**12:30** Board Members Ann Baum and Kristin Amend host a special luncheon with Cecile and major donors. Special thanks to Ann for generously underwriting the event.

**2:30** Cecile and I meet with the *KC Star* Editorial Board and have the chance to proactively educate the press.

**5:15** Arrive at 18th and Vine for the night's star-studded fundraiser.

**5:45** KS Governor Kathleen Sebelius arrives. The Governor, Cecile and 150 patrons mingle in the Blue Room. Happy Birthday, Kathleen!

**6:15** Thrilled to see such a wonderful turnout at the Jazz Museum. Cecile and the Governor both affirm the importance of our mission and services.

**8:00** Put on your dancing shoes - I sure did! Legendary Marcia Ball performs at the Gem Theatre.

**Day End:** Special events, in addition to raising money and awareness, are a big boost for staff. This work is tough - we never have enough resources to do everything that needs doing. Then, a few times a year, a bunch of folks come together to support our mission, our programs and us. Thank you.



PPKM, President and CEO

### HB 1055

**8:00** Final day of session. Will the Missouri Legislature vote to drastically limit women's access to safe and legal abortions?

**11:00** Spoke once more with PPFA attorneys to discuss the legal implications of the bill, including the use of the "PQ". Republican leadership threatened use of this rare parliamentary procedure that stands for "moving the previous question," essentially cutting off open democratic debate.

**12:30** Admired the dedication of PPKM activists and volunteers for their continued efforts throughout the course of the bill.

**3:00** HB 1055 passes the Senate 24-9. With only three hours left in session, Senate leadership decides to defy tradition and uses the "PQ" to shut off debate.

**Day End:** This was a terrible day for the health and safety of Missouri women. HB 1055, when signed by Governor Blunt, will dramatically limit women's access to abortion services. The bill would close all but one clinic in Missouri, leaving women throughout the state having to go through significant lengths and cost to obtain a legal procedure.

**CHEERS TO** PPKM activists and volunteers who took more than 10,000 actions this legislative session.

# STATE OF AFFAIRS

## Missouri Blunt Trauma

Using an extremely rare parliamentary maneuver, Missouri legislators passed an omnibus anti-choice, anti-education bill in the waning hours of the legislative session. Governor Blunt is expected to sign the bill, but has not as of press time.

The bill bans Planned Parenthood's trained sex educators and materials from the Missouri public schools, requires unnecessary regulation of abortion providers, and puts into statute a so-called "alternatives to abortion" program that explicitly prohibits family planning referrals.

Legislators intend for the bill to close down abortion services at Broussard and Columbia, leaving St. Louis as the only city in Missouri where women can access safe and legal abortion services. Although legal abortion in the first trimester is 11 times safer than childbirth and entails half the risk of death involved in a tonsillectomy, this bill would require all abortion clinics to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical

**JEERS TO** Governor Blunt, for repeatedly prioritizing politics over women's health. In his most recent attack on our facilities, Blunt kicked Planned Parenthood's Springfield and Joplin clinics out of the Show Me Healthy Women program – jeopardizing many low-income women's health care.

JEERS

centers – even if they do not provide surgical procedures. Retrofitting the Columbia clinic to meet these regulations would cost upwards of \$1 million.

The bill will also force Planned Parenthood's educators out of more than a dozen public schools and will allow districts to utilize an abstinence-only curriculum, which has repeatedly been shown to be ineffective.

However, 18 "mixed-choice" legislators voted against the bill, thanks to the tireless efforts of our activists and staff. More than 350 people attended lobby day, thousands wrote or called their legislators, and PPKM delivered nearly 2300 petitions in support of prevention to the Governor and legislature.

## MO SUPREME COURT

While upholding the framework of the Teen Endangerment law, the Missouri Supreme Court dramatically limited its reach on May 1st. In its unanimous ruling, the Court held that medical professionals such as Planned Parenthood may provide minors with full information about their reproductive health options.

The law, which was passed in a September 2005 Special Session called by Governor Blunt, creates civil liability for trusted adults – including clergy, family members, teachers or health care

providers – who "cause, aid, or assist" a young woman who cannot involve a parent in her decision to have an abortion outside the state of Missouri.

The Court had to narrow the statute's scope in order to uphold the law, and in its ruling indicated the "phrase 'aid or assist'...cannot be constitutionally construed to include protected activities such as providing information or counseling."

As a trusted provider of information, PPKM is pleased the Court unanimously ruled we can continue to provide accurate information and counseling to young women facing crisis pregnancies.

In its decision, the Court also made clear to the Missouri legislature that any future attempts to restrict such information and counseling would be found unconstitutional.

CHEERS

**CHEERS TO** the 57 Missouri legislators who took a stand and voted against HB 1055, including 18 "mixed choice" legislators.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Kansas

By adding language to an amendment of a crime bill, anti-choice legislators pushed through changes to the criminal statute that will redefine personhood to include the unborn, from the moment of fertilization. The bill, which was signed into law, elevates the status of a fetus to full personhood – even before a woman knows she is pregnant. This legislation not only attacks the foundation of *Roe v. Wade*, but ignores and diverts attention from the pregnant women who are targeted for violence.

Kansas Representatives also added provisions to an omnibus appropriations bill that would have required unnecessary reporting to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. After her veto of this provision, Governor Sebelius stated all Kansans “...want our laws upheld, including laws protecting the privacy of our personal medical records...This measure runs counter to Kansans’ strong belief in the importance of medical privacy...”

## Supreme Court Ruling

On April 18th, the U.S. Supreme Court retreated from an unbroken line of precedent that has held that in any abortion regulation, a woman’s health must remain the paramount concern. In a 5-4 decision in *Gonzales v. Carhart* and *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, the Court upheld the 2003 Federal Abortion Ban.

In its 2000 *Stenberg v. Carhart* decision, the Court held that if there is a “division of medical opinion” and “substantial medical authority supports the proposition that banning a particular abortion procedure could endanger women’s health,” there must be a health exception. In its latest decision, the court adopted a different rule: in the face of medical disagreement, legislatures can decide whether or not to include a health exception.

In its decision to retreat from thirty years of protection of women’s health, the Court may have opened the floodgates to further state and federal attempts to limit access to reproductive health care.

# CHEERS

CHEERS TO the Kansas State School Board for reinstating a comprehensive, abstinence-based sexual education curriculum.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Biddy Hurlbut Planned Parenthood Supporter and Women’s Advocate



A long time champion of women’s rights, Mary Louise “Biddy” Miller Hurlbut, 80, of Tonganoxie, Kansas, passed away on Tuesday, May 1, 2007.

Biddy was a passionate advocate for civil and equal rights campaigns. She served as PPKM Board President in 1967-69 during the sexual revolution. She was a national NARAL board member when women began their battle to retain the Right to Choose. She gave many thousands of hours and dollars in support of our mission.

She was also a founding member of the Greater Kansas City Women’s Political Caucus Endowment and Education Fund and the Missouri Women’s Leadership Coalition. Her passion and dedication are an inspiration to us all. Biddy’s tremendous impact on women’s rights and our community are a true legacy to her character. Biddy’s bright, creative, strategic mind and her loyal, supportive, generous nature made her a champion of causes and a dynamite political operative. They also made her a valued friend, boss, wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Biddy, we salute you.

# JANE CRIGLER

# FACES & PLACES

PPKM Supporters Rockin' at 18th & Vine

It is with bittersweet feelings that we wish Grants Manager, Jane Crigler, goodbye and good luck on her retirement. After serving on the Board of Directors for six years, Jane made the transition to staff member on the Development Team last April. Her passion and dedication to PPKM and women's issues combined with her extensive knowledge of the grants development community helped to elevate our fundraising program in the past year. Jane was instrumental in securing over \$400,000 in foundation funding - including a \$250,000 award from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to revitalize services at our Patty Brous Center in the urban core. While we will miss her feisty spirit around the office - we wish her the very best with the next chapter of her life. Thank you, Jane!!



Clockwise: 1) Marcia Ball performing at the Gem Theatre; 2) Ann Baum and Governor Sebelius at the Patron Party; 3. Eileen and Byron Cohen, Cecile Richards, and co-chairs Frank and Helen Wewers; 4) Co-chair Stacey Daniels-Young, Board Chair, Kris Wilshusen, Bob Hamrick, co-chair Helen Wewers; 5) Dr. Linda Wilkinson, Rev. Holly McKissick, Mark Dugan, Joy Zimmerman; 6) Marcia helps us celebrate Governor Sebelius' birthday.



Jane with supporters at a recent event.



**The mission of Planned Parenthood**

**of Kansas & Mid-Missouri** is to ensure that every individual has the knowledge, opportunity and freedom to make informed private decisions about reproductive and sexual health.

**Peter Brownlie**  
*President/CEO*

**Kris Wilshusen**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**PPKM OPERATES THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CENTERS**

<b>PATTY BROUS CENTER</b>	
MIDTOWN KC	816.756.2277
INDEPENDENCE	816.252.3800
NORTH KC	816.453.6000
WARRENSBURG	660.747.6186
<b>COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH</b>	
OVERLAND PARK	913.345.1400
HAYS	785.628.2434
LAWRENCE	785.832.0281
WICHITA	316.263.7575
COLUMBIA	573.443.0427
SOUTH KC	816.763.2125
JEFFERSON CITY	573.635.2882

**[WWW.PPKM.ORG](http://WWW.PPKM.ORG)**

**CALLING ALL GODDESSES**

Don't miss the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Gathering of the Goddesses**  
October 4th in Kansas City.

This divine afternoon affirms  
and celebrates the inner goddess  
of all women at every age.

For more information or to get involved,  
please call April at 913.312.5100 ext: 251.