

Voices for Choice



President's Message

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Nevada County Citizens for Choice, Inc. Board members and many volunteers are busy preparing for our annual fundraising event on October 10. We call it Celebration of Choice, because that is what we are all about. The most important part of the event will be the auction, for which we are currently collecting items. I am happy to report that we already have several very exciting prices, including a free stay at a Reno Resort and Casino. So mark your calendar and make sure you join us again this year. It's always a fun event and we look forward to seeing our many faithful and generous donors and friends.

We are also planning to unveil a new logo for Nevada County Citizens for Choice, Inc. at the Celebration of Choice festivities. Some Board members have worked with graphic artist Kathy Hight to develop a logo that represents the mission of our organization more accurately. We wanted not only to promote our basic belief in choice on all levels of our lives, but also the work we do in regard to our educational outreach program.

And speaking of Outreach, Sarah Molaro, who has been an outreach worker for NC Citizens for Choice, Inc. for many years, and Kristen Darling, who joined her in January of this year, have never been busier and more effective. In addition to their usual routine of visiting sites where younger people hang out on weekends, you will also find them at Thursday night's Farmers Market in Grass Valley and at Wednesday's Hot Summer Nights in Nevada City. Come visit them when you are attending either or both events. When you visit them at either of these sites, you will note they desperately need a shade cover. If by any chance you have a canopy that you no longer need, please let us know at 274-3331 and we will be glad to pick it up.

We know that Sarah's and Kristen's work is effective, because we have ever more people coming to the clinic, which is now open Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Since the clinic started in May of 2006, it has attended to more than 3,000 client visits. Testimony to fact that free or low-cost reproductive health care is very needed in our community and we are so pleased to be able to provide it with your help and generous contribution.

We thank you for that from the bottom of our hearts.

Ingrid Abel



WHS Clinic is located at
120 Richardson St
Suite D, Grass Valley
(entrance from rear
parking lot)

Wednesdays
1:00 — 6:00 PM
DROP IN

TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT CHOICE

Board of Directors, 2008

President

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Elaine Sierra

Suzanne Smith

and some vacancies

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We all know the need to continually advocate for pro-choice public policies. Most recently, our actions were aimed at protecting access to contraception and reproductive healthcare.

Reproductive Rights Crimes

Those on our Action Alert list were notified about the need to call our Assembly person, Rick Keene, to urge a "yes" vote on SB 1770 – an important bill to extend and improve the Reproductive Rights Law Enforcement Act (RRLEA). That law, along with The California Freedom of Access to Clinic and Church Entrances (FACE) Act, was enacted in 2001 to combat anti-reproductive rights crimes that interfere with patients' access to reproductive healthcare, including at abortion clinics. SB 1770 would extend the RRLEA, but also adopt recommendations of a committee convened by the California Commission on the Status of Women to improve the effectiveness of the FACE Act and the RRLEA. The bill would improve police training and crime reporting. The bill passed through the legislature on July 14th (despite Keene's "No" vote), and awaits the Governor's signature. Thanks to all of you who responded to this action alert!

Budget undercutting access to reproductive healthcare

We've added our voice to the ongoing debate about our state budget crisis and how to address a shortfall of \$15-17 billion. Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget, even as modified in May, would rely on cuts to services which would greatly, adversely affect the most vulnerable families in our community. Cuts would extend to essential health programs and services. A 10% reduction in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates would cause many providers to stop participating in the program and new requirements for more frequent certification and other paperwork requirements would impede access to basic services. Medi-Cal now covers essential women's health services for many of our clinic clients. NCCC joined a statewide coalition opposing these harmful cuts and urging a more balanced approach that includes looking at revenue sources. We also signed on to a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and California legislative leaders, detailing the adverse effects to health of a cuts-only budget and asking for adoption of a budget that would better protect the health and safety of California's people.

Redefining contraception as abortion at HHS

At the federal level, HHS is considering a regulation that would severely limit access to common contraceptives and emergency contraception. Under the guise of preventing discrimination against providers with "consciences" opposed to abortion and contraception, the new rules would effectively define abortion to include commonly used contraceptive methods and would protect the rights of medical providers who refused to offer them. Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.), in a letter to HHS, noted that the rules could "disrupt state laws securing women's access to birth control, endanger federal programs such as Medicaid and Title X, [and] undermine state laws that ensure survivors of sexual assault and rape receive emergency contraception in hospital emergency rooms." What you can do: sign a petition opposing the rule at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/123393979>.

What's Next

We need your help in opposing the Parental Notification Initiative that will be on the November ballot. Please contact me if you would like to join in that effort.

Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Committee Chair

CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS — A GLOBAL REACH

"Advocacy is critical to shaping legal norms and pivotal for ensuring that legal victories translate into real change for women's lives. The International Advocacy Director position is a new one, created in response to the Center's most recent strategic plan."

...Quoted from "Of Counsel" Summer 2008 (www.reproductiverights.org)

FROM OUR OUTREACH EDUCATORS

With the arrival of summer, your outreach team has been extremely busy. Thanks to a grant from The Entrek Foundation, we have nearly doubled activities: Kristen and I are staffing tables at Nevada City's Hot Summer Nights (right in between the Obama booth and the McCain booth... seems appropriate!), and every Thursday night at Grass Valley's Farmer's Markets in front of the Holbrooke Hotel. These events are very successful in gaining community support, as NCCC has finally been given an opportunity to be received by the public. Rather than just outreaching to the people who may be interested in our services, we are getting to know the community which has a more objective outlook on our work. Mostly, NCCC has been very well received at these events.

We offer our newsletters, volunteer signups (one page has already been filled), lots of information on healthy relationships, sex and sexuality, as well as handouts for parents interested in starting the very important dialogues around sexuality. Our famous condom basket sits proudly at the table along with a donation jar (that is filling up with generous offerings) and voter registration forms (so far NCCC has helped one young woman register and two other adults who took the paperwork home).

Our condom basket sites have more than doubled and continue to grow in locations. Several shop owners have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to start a dialogue with customers that they lacked before the arrival of their basket. They tote them proudly and we are so thankful for their kindness, as are the numerous individuals who keep us busy REFILLING them each week!

Thank you so much for supporting this dynamic program. Kristen and I are having a great time together and really feel that NCCC's presence in the community has prospered!

Sarah Molaro, Health Educator

ABOUT THE CLINIC... DID YOU KNOW... ?

The two most common services we provide are birth control methods and testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI's). One in four sexually active young people have an STI.

- After dropping 34% between 1991 and 2005, the birth rate between 15 to 19 year olds in the US rose 3% to 23%
- 31% of young women become pregnant at least once before the age of 20.
- The US has the highest rates of teen pregnancies and births in the Western industrialized world.
- 46% of 15 to 19 year olds have had sex at least once.
- The average age for first-time sex is 17 years old.
- 49% of pregnancies are unintended.
- 42% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion.
- 19% of women having abortions in the US are teens, 33% are between 20-24, and 48% are ages 25 and older.
- Only 10% of unintended pregnancies end in adoption.
- Unwed mothers are more likely to raise their children than are unwed fathers. Of Nevada County's public assistance recipients over 16 years old, 80% are women.
- Less than 1/3 of girls who begin families before the age of 18 ever finish high school.

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: We are happy to report that former NCCC Director Susan Fivelstad, with a lot of hard :
: work and a determined attitude, is making good progress toward recovery from a :
: stroke 3 months ago. Susan is now home and doing well. We send our best wishes. :
:.....

Thank You! to New & Renewing Donors 5-23-08 through 7-23-08

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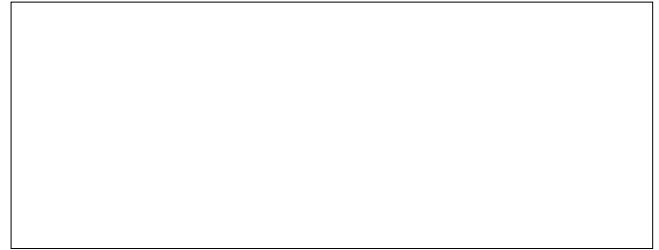
Your contributions to NCCC, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization, are tax-deductible.

Please check with your tax advisor regarding your individual situation



PO Box 3525, Grass Valley CA 95945

Return Service Requested



NCCC STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In keeping with our commitment to staying on target, NCCC has revisited our Statement of Purpose. Following is an abridged version of the most recent Statement:

Clinic Services: provide reproductive health care and referrals at free and reduced cost in a confidential and non-judgmental environment

Education: two health educators visit many community sites to distribute information, birth control supplies, condoms, etc; promote comprehensive sex education in schools.

Advocacy: promote and lobby for pro-choice laws and policies, including affordability and accessibility.

Collaboration: e.g. with Women's Health Specialists of Chico, medical groups and non-profit organizations, local schools, libraries, book stores and community organizations, and with other pro-choice groups throughout the state.

For a complete copy of the NCCC Statement of Purpose, 2008 edition, see NCCC website or contact Ingrid at 274-3135.

CELEBRATION OF CHOICE !

*Friday, October 10. 6:00—8:30 pm
Grass Valley Elks Club*

Preparations are coming along. The Board and Volunteers are gathering donations for the silent auction — if you have an item you'd like to donate,, or know of a business that would like to donate, please contact Nancy Eubanks at eubanks@2xtreme.net

Thank you for your support of this fabulous Fall Fundraiser.

Bring a friend — there's no admission cost!, and there'll be tasty food
