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## 21st Annual Celebration of Choice a Great Success

On October 11th, nearly 400 supporters gathered at Threadgill's in downtown Austin for an evening of food, live entertainment from Sara Hickman and Ruthie Foster, and silent and live auctions to benefit NARAL Pro-Choice Texas.

This event was a huge success, netting over \$30,000 that will be used to directly support our programming and political advocacy on behalf of Texas women and families.

Thanks so much to everyone who joined us that evening, including all our incredible volunteers, and those who couldn't make it but sent a donation on their behalf. We had a great time and can't wait for next year's Celebration!



Celebration of Choice Chair Kay Gourley, Director of Administration & Outreach Katie Mahoney, Catherine Mauzy, Political Director Laurie Felker Jones



Executive Director Sara Cleveland, Board Chair Catherine Mauzy



Representative Rick Noniega



The event featured a performance by Austin singer/songwriter Ruthie Foster

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' 2006 Annual Report is now available for viewing online at [www.prochoicetexas.org](http://www.prochoicetexas.org) To request a copy, please call us at (512) 462-1661**



## Did you know...

... that NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is actually three organizations in one? Here's a brief rundown of the work that we do:

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas** is a political advocacy organization that encompasses our legislative work, regional Choice Action Teams, activist corps, and membership services. Contributions to NPCT are not tax-deductible.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation** is a public education organizations that handles our public education campaigns, campus organizing project, polling, and voter participation project. Contributions to NPCT Foundation are

tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas PAC** is a statewide General Purpose Action Committee that works to promote and protect choice issues by electing pro-choice candidates to office through direct and in-direct support of their campaigns. Contributions to NPCT PAC are not tax-deductible.

**These three organizations are separate and distinct from NARAL Pro-Choice America, which handles policy and candidates on the national level. Every penny that you give to us stays in Texas, while contributions given to NARAL Pro-Choice America fund projects on a national level.**



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation is a proud member of Community Shares of Texas. To learn more about donating to NPCT Foundation through workplace giving, visit [www.communitysharestx.org](http://www.communitysharestx.org) or call (800) TX-SHARE.



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**Director of Administration & Outreach**

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# Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, replete with the whirlwind of early holiday shopping and the preparing of holiday cuisine, our focus shifts to family. Our "family," be they blood relatives or chosen friends and partners, is a very important part of who we are. They help shape our childhoods, our adolescence, and our adulthood. They weigh in on decisions about our education, our career paths, and our retirement. Family is very important to me, and when I think about the family I'd like to someday have, my thoughts return again to choice and how thankful I am to have it.


We don't get to choose the family we're born into, but thanks to *Roe v. Wade*, many of us—at least from a legal aspect—have the choice to plan our own family. Unfortunately, there are still many Texans for whom the term "choice" is not relevant. Whether the reasons are financial, cultural, or geographic, there are women for whom the full range of reproductive choices, including abortion, isn't available. NARAL Pro-Choice Texas has recently completed two different projects which we hope will ultimately work to improve access to reproductive options for all Texas women. Our Houston EC Access Survey (see article, p. 4) will allow Houstonites to locate pharmacies that stock emergency contraception by zip code and price. The 2008 update of our Crisis Pregnancy Center report will continue to inform people of the standard practices of these fake clinics and will outline the services they do—and *do not*—provide.

We will continue to work hard to improve reproductive access for women across the state and ask only that, as you reflect upon the choices you have and on the family you're thankful for, you remember those who may have fewer options and do what you can to support them by supporting us. From everyone at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, happy holidays.

Warmest regards,



Sara S. Cleveland  
 Executive Director



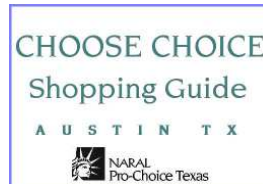
*Does your employer match gifts to nonprofit organizations? Double the value of your donation to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation in one easy step! You'll receive a tax deduction and so will your employer. Please ask your personnel office for the employee matching gift forms, sign and send them to us, and we'll take care of the rest!*

*[Please note: NPCT Foundation's tax identification number is 74-2543342.]*

## 2007 Choose Choice Holiday Shopping Guide Now Available

With so many businesses clamoring for your patronage this holiday season, wouldn't you like to know you're making an informed decision and putting your money where your values are?

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas wants to make it easy for you to support businesses that support reproductive freedom in Texas. To that end, we're proud to announce that the 2007 update of our *Choose Choice* holiday shopping guide is now available for



download at  
[www.prochoicetexas.org](http://www.prochoicetexas.org).

Featuring a wide array of Austin-area businesses such as restaurants, salons, clothing stores, theaters, gyms, pet care, and boutiques, our guide has something for everyone on your list.

We're always looking for more businesses and organizations to add to our guide. If you know of one that you think should be included, let us know and we'll contact them.

We're also looking to expand our guide into other metro areas. Do you know any pro-choice businesses in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth, or El Paso? Let us know!

# NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Receives Funding for Public Interest Campaign in Houston

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is excited to announce the launch of a major public interest campaign which will be conducted in Houston starting in 2008. Thanks to a grant from NARAL Pro-Choice America, we will spend the next



Students at a campus organizer training in Houston co-hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation

year working on the ground in the Houston metro area to conduct several large-scale projects, including coalition-building, media outreach, a story-sharing campaign, and a pro-choice ID survey.

We are currently working with a 10-15 member (and still growing) coalition of progressive organizations known as the Houston Area Table, a branch of the Texas Table. Partnering with diverse organizations, each of which has a well-developed Houston presence, allows us to build relationships, pool our collective resources, and reach out to new constituencies who may have been previously unfamiliar with the work of NPCT.

Starting this winter, we will be launching a story-sharing project tentatively entitled *My Family, My Choices*. Conceived in re-

sponse to 2,000 affidavits presented in a legislative hearing by women who were "hurt by abortion," the *My Family, My Choices* initiative will identify and collect personal stories from individuals who support one or more of NPCT's policies regarding such sub-

jects as emergency contraception, family planning, sex education, and abortion. This will raise the public awareness of NPCT Foundation and the range of issues on which we work. Concurrently, we will launch a pro-choice ID phone survey using our state-of-the-art voter file. We will call these lists and ask respondents a series of questions in order to identify Texans in the greater Houston area who support choice issues.

"We're incredibly excited to be raising NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' profile and activity level in the Houston area," said Executive Director Sara Cleveland. "Working in Houston will allow us to incorporate a wider breadth of representation in the community, to more accurately reflect the true diversity of Texas families."

## Why Houston?

**Austin, because of its central location and status as the state capitol, continues to serve us well as the home of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas (NPCT). However, while we're proud of the work we have done to achieve our high profile and make our presence felt in the Austin area, to truly serve our mission of being a statewide organization it is imperative that we expand our reach geographically.**

**Houston is the fourth-largest city in the nation and four times larger than Austin. However, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas still has much room to grow in this, the most populous region of the state. Our public interest campaign will educate Houston individuals and organizations about NPCT, the issues we're involved with, and how we work to represent them. Likewise, their participation will enable us to recruit pro-choice supporters, identify where they stand on specific issues, engage them as activists, and will provide us with an incredible bank of testimonies to spark stories in the media and supplement future public interest campaigns.**

## 35 Years of Roe • 30 Years of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

2008 marks the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* as well as the 30th anniversary of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas (formerly TARAL). This January, we will be helping supporters across Texas - the birthplace of *Roe* - organize house parties to celebrate and reflect on these landmark anniversaries.

While we know some organizations - including NARAL Pro-Choice Texas - will be hosting formal events to commemorate these landmark events, we think it's an important time to reflect on where *Roe* started - not at a fancy luncheon, or a huge event, but in the homes of everyday Americans like you.

Hosting a house party is a great way to share your support of NARAL Pro-Choice

**35<sup>th</sup> | Roe v. Wade 2008  
Anniversary Celebration**

Texas with your family and friends in a fun and meaningful way. Sign up today to reserve your house party kit, including special materials like the latest updates on choice in Texas, a "sneak peak" of our plans through 2009, and simple ways for your guests to take action and make a difference. All you'll need to do is invite your guests and provide refreshments of your choice - some may have a simple gathering, others a more lavish affair. **Contact [shane@prochoicetexas.org](mailto:shane@prochoicetexas.org) to reserve your kit today.**

We look forward to celebrating these very special anniversaries with you!

*To help you decide what kind of house party you may want to have, we've come up with some themes you might be interested in using to make your party more fun and personal:*

*Choice Begins at Home -- My Home!*  
*Rock 'n' Roe (benefit concert)*  
*Roe, Sweet Roe*  
*Reflections on Roe, Looking Ahead*  
*What Happens In Texas, Stays in Texas:*  
*Celebrating our Place in Roe's History!*  
*Roe Comes Home*  
*From My House to the White House*  
*Take Your Daughter to Roe Day*  
*Happy Birthday, Roe!*  
*Retro Roe -- We Won't Go Back!*

*We encourage you to send us your ideas, too!*

# Houston EC Survey Project

By Shane M. Trawick, Houston EC Project Coordinator

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the over-the-counter status of Plan B® emergency contraception (EC), the NARAL Pro-Choice Texas (NPCT) Foundation teamed up with women across Texas to launch an investigation of access to the “best kept secret” in birth control: emergency contraception, birth control taken after sex. Volunteers contacted nearly 800 Houston pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals to publicize a little-known fact about EC access—that despite FDA approval, women continue to face challenges in Plan B® access similar to those faced before its approval. Challenges faced by women include:

- lack of knowledge about EC and its effectiveness;
- price barriers;
- locations of stores that stock EC;
- political interference by extremists who oppose birth control, including pharmacists who refuse to dispense EC, even to survivors of sexual assault;
- pharmacists who remain unaware that the FDA has approved a dual-label status for Plan B® for over-the-counter sale to women over 18, and continue to require prescriptions for women under 18, a requirement that hinders many women’s access to EC.

Based on the data collected for Houston, the NPCT Foundation will be releasing a report that identifies the continued barriers to EC access, while highlighting the significant advances women have gained in obtaining emergency contraception. Additionally, NPCT Foundation has utilized the data collected to create an easy-to-access online database that allows any woman in the Houston area to type in her address and find the closest pharmacy that distributes EC, along with the price and that pharmacy’s distribution policies. The Houston EC Survey Project has given NPCT Foundation a snapshot of women’s access in Houston that will allow us to continue our efforts in supporting proactive policies to expand access for women not only in Houston, but across Texas.



Photo courtesy Joe Raedle / Getty Images

# Take Action for Women’s Health

- 1. SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US.** Have you ever visited a Crisis Pregnancy Center? Did you have trouble obtaining the morning-after pill at your local pharmacy? Does your teenager receive medically inaccurate, abstinence-only sex education at school? Why is reproductive freedom important to you? Submit your story online at [www.prochoicetexas.org/getinvolved/stories.shtml](http://www.prochoicetexas.org/getinvolved/stories.shtml) [Note: We will not share or publish your story without your permission.]
- 2. JOIN SARAH’S CIRCLE.** We know it can be hard to donate a lot of money all at once. Why not donate a small amount each month? Monthly donors are the financial backbone of our organization, and donations can be made in a variety of ways: charged to your credit card, deducted from your checking account, or invoiced quarterly. Contact us to learn about the benefits of becoming a monthly donor!
- 3. BECOME A CAMPUS ORGANIZER.** Do you attend a college or university in Texas? Are you interested in learning more about starting a pro-choice student group or organizing for reproductive freedom on your campus? We’ll provide you with everything you need, including a campus organizing guide, monthly consultations with NPCT staff, freebies to hand out, and more! Contact [laurie@prochoicetexas.org](mailto:laurie@prochoicetexas.org) to learn more about our Campus Organizing Program.

## Save the Date!

Roe v. Wade 35th Anniversary Landmark Event  
January 17, 2007 - University of Texas at Austin



Watch [www.prochoicetexas.org](http://www.prochoicetexas.org) for updates!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jen (Houston, TX)

21-year-old Jen is a senior at Rice University majoring in Biochemistry. She is also a campus organizer working as a leader of the student group Rice for Choice.

Jen calls reproductive freedom a “logical pursuit for me.” In her opinion, “healthcare and reproductive choice are based on science, which is built on reason and collaboration. The same principles should be applied in practice so that individuals can make decisions based on full information... **the research and technology that enable us to have choice come from science, so related decisions should be based on science, too.**”

Jen had already been involved with Rice for Choice when she found out about NARAL Pro-Choice Texas’ Campus Organizer Program, and explains, “I was already essentially doing everything the campus organizer position entails; it just made sense to collaborate.”



Are you interested in starting a pro-choice group on your campus, or are you already working with one? To learn more about becoming a campus organizer, visit [www.prochoicetexas.org/getinvolved/](http://www.prochoicetexas.org/getinvolved/).

It’s easy to become a NARAL Pro-Choice Texas volunteer... contact us at [volunteer@prochoicetexas.org](mailto:volunteer@prochoicetexas.org) or (512) 462-1661 to find out how you can get involved!