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You can support NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation (aka TARAL Education Fund) every time you shop at Randall's! Next time you go, request a Good Neighbor Program form at the customer service center and link your Remarkable Card to us. After that, each time you use your Remarkable Card, a percentage of your spending will be donated to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation! Our Good Neighbor number is 9526.



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 or call (800) TX-SHARE.

Healthy Women, Healthy Families Campaign Launched



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation is excited to announce the launch of the *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* coalition, a state-wide survey project to be conducted over the next nine months. The coalition will survey more than 2,000 Texas women from diverse communities throughout the state to identify their healthcare needs and priorities. Women will also be asked to share a personal story about a healthcare challenge they or a family member has faced.

"We often don't realize what a powerful tool sharing our stories can be," said Katie Mahoney, Director of Outreach & Administration at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* project coordinator. "If fifty people in the same town describe the same healthcare challenge they are facing in their personal lives, suddenly it becomes a community problem and it can't be ignored any longer."

When the 81st legislative session convenes in January, the coalition plans to bring stories and survey results to the Capitol to raise awareness about the state of women's health in various regions across Texas, as well as lobby for improved health services in the areas of most need as identified by survey participants. Coalition members will also meet with other policymakers across the state, and will hold regional forums to bring local leaders and community members together to address these issues.

In conjunction with the project, the coalition launched the accompanying web site www.HealthyWomenHealthyFamilies.org. In its first week, over 200 surveys were submitted online through this site.

"We are thrilled about the response to this project so far," said Mahoney. "It is clear that women across Texas are prepared to demand the healthcare they need – not only for themselves, but on behalf of everyone else with a similar story to tell."

Below are excerpts from some of the stories that have been shared through this project:

"...I have severe endometriosis, have had surgery, and recently discovered another ovarian cyst. The only treatment for me is continual-use birth control pills - it's the only way to preserve any slight possibility of fertility. The movement afoot from the radical right to take away birth control will take away my health care options, will basically take away any hope I have of getting pregnant - as well as any hope I have of avoiding a hysterectomy..."

"...I needed a mammogram, and there was nowhere in San Angelo that I could go to that was affordable to me. I need transportation to go to another nearby town..."

"... You need to advocate for breastfeeding support at state agencies. For instance, I am a UT graduate student and had nowhere to pump breast milk after I went back to school. I had to stop breastfeeding my daughter before I was ready. There needs to be a law that requires all state agencies to have lactation rooms for breastfeeding mothers..."

Healthy Women, Healthy Families coalition partners as of August 25:

- Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, Inc.
- ACLU Foundation of Texas
- ALLGO—A Statewide Queer People of Color Organization
- Austin Women's Health Center
- Center for Research on Women with Disabilities
- Jane's Due Process
- League of Women Voters of Texas
- The Lilith Fund
- Mothers for Clean Air
- NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation
- National Association of Social Workers/ Texas
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice—Texas
- Texas Equal Access Fund
- Transgender Advocates of Central Texas
- Women's Health and Family Planning of Texas
- YWCA Paris and Lamar County

Have you shared your story yet? Visit www.HealthyWomenHealthyFamilies.org today!

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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: Our tax ID number is 74-2543342.]



Letter from the Executive Director



"...because at the end of the day, I know that's what is right for society," I say.
"Hmmp." he replies. "At the end of the day, I know what's best for me."
"...and therein lies our fundamental difference," I insist.

I'm in west Texas, engaged in conversation with one of my extended family members about the upcoming elections. I've already been accused of throwing my support behind Obama over McCain because "you women just want to see him as president because he votes the closest to a woman as you're gonna git." Yup, I reckon maybe that's part of it. However, I know there's more to it. I have a few family members who do agree with me that women ought to have a right to do with their own bodies what they deem the best choice. But somewhere between that belief and their vote is a huge gap.

In a recent poll, Americans were asked what their top priorities were during the upcoming election cycle. The war in Iraq topped the list (36%), followed by the economy (16%), healthcare (15%) and immigration (10%). Abortion came in 8th, with only 3% of the population prioritizing it. While you'll find no argument from me as to the importance of the top rankers, surely it's not outlandish to place one's right to control one's body high on the list of things to consider when deciding upon a candidate -- especially when one of those candidates seems so determined to control it on your behalf.

During his time in office, McCain has voted anti-choice 125 of 130 times; has voted to cut funding for the Title X (ten) family-planning program, which provides contraception and cancer screenings for low-income women; and voted to confirm four anti-choice Supreme Court nominees. I worry that too few people understand that the Supreme Court is in play. Should McCain win this election, he will likely have the opportunity to appoint two new justices. As it stands, there are four liberal justices, four conservative justices, and one swing vote. Were Justices Ginsburg and Stevens (both liberal votes) to depart and McCain to make two new appointments, the Supreme Court would be stacked and in a position to reverse decades of precedent, including rights such as *Roe v. Wade*. McCain's website states: "the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* represents only one step in the long path toward ending abortion." However obvious McCain's feelings are about *Roe*, you can bet he won't stop there.

At the end of the day, while I know the importance of *Roe v. Wade*, I also recognize that there's more at stake than just that. Society will be impacted by this election for decades to come in areas such as the death penalty, immigration rights, soldiers' rights, freedom to make private medical decisions, campaign finance, and many other areas. What these things have in common is that they are our top priorities. So while you may be tempted to think about "what's best for me," I beg of you to think about the fact that what's best for society will likely benefit you in the long run as well.

Best,

Sara S. Cleveland
Executive Director

CELEBRATION OF CHOICE!



It's that time again...

Save the date—NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' 22nd annual **Celebration of Choice** is coming up on September 25, 2008.

What: Our annual fundraising event, featuring dinner & drinks, live music from **Tish Hinojosa** and the **Austin Lounge Lizards**, and a fantastic silent auction!

Where: Threadgill's World Headquarters, 301 W Riverside Drive, Austin

When: Thursday, September 25—6:00-9:30pm

We are still looking for sponsors to underwrite this great event. Sponsorships include dinner, two tickets to the event, and listings in the event program and at the venue. Visit our website at www.ProChoiceTexas.org or call (512) 462-1661 to sponsor today!

NPCT Bids a Fond Farewell to Laurie Felker Jones

By Sara Cleveland, Executive Director

It's with both heavy hearts and high hopes that after years of service with NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, we bid farewell to Laurie Felker Jones. Laurie started interning for NARAL Pro-Choice Texas back in 2001 and stayed very involved with the organization before coming aboard full-time in 2005.

Laurie served as both the Field Director and Political Director, eventually becoming the Deputy Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas. She took on issues such as contraception, crisis pregnancy centers, the Federal Abortion Ban, the Freedom of Choice Act, pharmacy refusals, teen pregnancy and education, ultrasound legislation... and the list goes on. She did so with gusto, with smarts, with sass, and with an inherent political savvy people twice her age can't come close to touching.

Laurie's sense of humor, likeability, and wisdom about many and varied

topics make her sought after equally for speaking engagements, as a coalition partner, and as a party guest. She has learned from the examples of some true legends, such as Sarah Weddington and Loretta Ross, and has taken from these experiences the ability to serve as a mentor to dozens of interns, fellows, and campus representatives over the years. Laurie is adored by her board members and colleagues alike and all of us hope you'll join us in wishing her well in whatever endeavor she decides next to pursue. Someone out there will be lucky to have her. Laurie, thank you for your years of tireless service to further the reproductive rights of women in Texas. We'll miss you!

Laurie has requested that all gifts in her honor be directed to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas PAC, so we can continue to carry on her legacy by working to get pro-choice candidates elected to office.



Intern Laurie rabble-rousin' at the March for Women's Lives in Washington, DC



Laurie at the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade



Laurie with former NPCT Board Chair Catherine Mauzy

Take Action—Protect Your Access to Birth Control

On August 21, the Bush administration took the first step in pushing through its new anti-choice regulation.

The good news is, this regulation left out the most egregious anti-birth control provision that was present in the first version. Thanks to opposition expressed by nearly 30,000 NARAL Pro-Choice America activists, more than 120 House members and 28 senators (pro-choice and pro-life alike), governors, state attorneys general, state legislators, members of the choice community, medical and public-health organizations, and the faith community, it is clear that the Bush administration is running scared.

Now the bad news—we're not out of the woods yet. This new version fails to give assurances that current laws about abortion will not be stretched to cover birth control, too.



Photo courtesy teenpregnane.blogspot.com

We have until September 20 to tell Bush's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to include explicit language in the regulation to ensure that birth control is not at risk. We must show Bush that the vast majority of Americans oppose harmful and politically-driven attacks on reproductive freedom.

Visit www.ProChoiceTexas.org to find out how you can send a message to HHS telling them that women's access to birth control shouldn't be affected by this legislation.

Thank You, Interns!

As a statewide organization with a small staff, we depend on the great work of our interns to accomplish everything that we do. NPCT interns draft reports, research legislation and policy, plan and staff events, collect petition signatures, donate their graphic design skills, contribute hours of data entry, and do whatever else needs to be done to keep the organization running. We couldn't do it without them!

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas would like to thank all the amazing interns, fellows, and campus organizers we had the privilege of working with during the 2007-2008 school year and over the summer: Candice, Chelsey, Courtney, Erika, Jamie, Jen, Kristen, Lena, Morgan, Nhu-Y, Paige, Sarah, Sera, Shane, and Tonya.

We also want to send a special thank you to Program Fellow Shane Trawick, who has worked with us for the past year. During that time, he coordinated our Houston EC pharmacy survey, maintained our Facebook group, helped develop and implement the *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* project, and much more. This fall, he's moving to New York City to continue doing great work with NARAL Pro-Choice New York as the director of their brand new canvassing program. Best of luck, Shane!





Welcome New Campus Organizers

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' Campus Organizing Program recruits talented, passionate students to conduct reproductive rights organizing, outreach, and education on their college campus. COP students learn valuable organizing skills, get access to exciting resources and training opportunities, and network with other student organizers from across the nation.

This year, we are pleased to work with students on four Texas campuses: Erica at Huston-Tillotson University, Whitney at Rice University, José at the University of North Texas, and Courtney at the University of Texas at Austin.

We are still looking for one more 2008-2009 campus organizer (preferably from Lubbock, El Paso, or San Antonio). If you or someone you know would be interested in this paid position, please visit www.ProChoiceTexas.org/GetInvolved/ or contact Katie at (512) 462-1661 to learn more.

Why Do We Ask for Your Email Address?



In today's fast-paced world, email is the most efficient way to let you know what's happening at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and across the state. Sharing your email address with us (we keep it private and don't sell or rent your email to any outside organizations) means you're the first to know about:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Up-to-the-minute electoral and legislative breaking news
- Upcoming events in your city
- Threats to your reproductive freedom and what you can do about them
- Exciting new projects and programs
- Resources like our pro-choice shopping guide

So save some extra paper and help reduce our postage costs by plugging yourself in to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas. Sign up for the Choice Action Network at www.ProChoiceTexas.org today!

FindEC.org Comes to Dallas/Fort Worth



As many of you know, www.FindEC.org was launched by NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation last year in order to provide women in different cities across Texas with an online resource to quickly and easily access emergency contraception (EC), otherwise known as the morning-after pill. Women in Houston and Austin can visit the website, enter their zip code, and receive a list of the closest pharmacies that stock EC, along with the price at each pharmacy. Intern Morgan Lidey and a dedicated team of volunteers spent this spring surveying pharmacies in San Antonio and El Paso, and these cities will soon be added to the website as well. Now www.FindEC.org is hitting Dallas and Fort Worth!

Because the DFW area is so large, comprising hundreds of pharmacies, we're going to need as many volunteers as we can get. If you will have some time this fall to make a few phone calls from your home (we'll provide phone numbers, a script, and an easy online form to fill out with the information from each pharmacy), please let us know! It only takes a couple of minutes to call a pharmacy, and the information you get will make a huge difference in the lives of DFW women who need to buy EC but don't know which pharmacies stock it.

If you can help us this fall, please contact Morgan at Morgan@ProChoiceTexas.org, or call us at (512) 462-1661. Now that EC is available without a prescription for women over 18, let's make sure women who need it can actually access it.

Forwarding Service Requested

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