



**NARAL  
Pro-Choice Minnesota**

2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 120  
St. Paul, MN 55114

[www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org](http://www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org)  
[info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org](mailto:info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org)



**CHECK OUT OUR 2010 LEGISLATIVE  
SCORECARD ONLINE AT  
[WWW.PROCHOICEMINNESOTA.ORG!](http://WWW.PROCHOICEMINNESOTA.ORG)**



**choice  
for  
women**

NonProfit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #1729  
Minneapolis, MN

**Summer Edition 2010 Volume 9, Issue 1**



**Pro-Choice Minnesota News**

A publication of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota and NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Do you want to live in a state where lawmakers - not doctors - make medical decisions for you?

Where teens are denied the truth about their sexual health?

Where your zip code and income determines the type of health care you can access?

Where the state funds deceptive anti-choice operations under the guise of health centers?

**This is not a nightmare. This is the reality in Minnesota.**

If our opponents have their way on November 4, 2010, and retain the anti-choice hold of the governor's office and take back the House, Minnesota women will suffer. Surely, this will make Minnesota one of the worst states to live in for those of us who value freedom of choice and privacy.

During the 2010 legislative session, we fought back over 20 anti-choice amendments, all aimed at further restricting a woman's right to choose.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has a strategy to change these realities in our state. We have a bold vision for Minnesota; one that is fully achievable with the support of the pro-choice community.**

The 2010 election cycle is a vital first step to make these changes. We have the chance to make Minnesota fully pro-choice: starting at the Governor's office, and holding onto margins in the House and Senate. With their pro-choice leadership at the helm, we can influence positive reproductive health policy and make Minnesota truly pro-choice.

That is why the incredibly important work of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota continues. We must have pro-choice success in the election booths to make Minnesota a pro-choice state. We must be the leaders in this critical time to forge a new direction in the debate over reproductive rights.

This summer and fall, we will be working to Protect & Elect a pro-choice majority but our work doesn't stop when the elections are over. We must also craft policies to reform laws that lay down barriers to choice.

Unfortunately, until we pass these reforms in Minnesota, a woman's income and zip code can determine whether or not she can get to an abortion clinic, afford birth control, or find emergency contraception at a nearby pharmacy. A woman may find her way to a state-funded crisis pregnancy center, where she will receive misinformation designed to coerce, humiliate or shame women for their choices.

We cannot do this work alone - we need all of our members to give early and often. We need your time as volunteers, we need your voices heard in the election booth, and we need your monetary support to make our collective vision a reality.

Please, give the gift of choice today.

In Choice,

*Linnea House*

Linnea House



## NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 120  
St. Paul, MN 55114

651-602-7655 • 651-602-7658 fax

[www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org](http://www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org)

[info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org](mailto:info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org)

### NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

#### Board of Directors

Cindy Aegerter	Ana Allen
Louis Asher	Holly Davis
Kristen Gast	Maggie Hobbs
Kimberly Johnson	Vanessa Martin
Robin Martinek	Erica Prosser
Richard Schwartz	Krista Twesme

### NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation

#### Board of Directors

Gabriel Anderson	Brad Baso
Robert Benjamin, MD	Christina Delgado
James Evans	Julie Ingmire
Jessica Jerney	Laura McCarty
Doug Micko	Rozamond Sather
Ann Seguin	Ellen Smart

### Staff of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

Chris Allison	Canvasser
Dan Buck	Grassroots Organizer
Stephanie Charboneau	Field Manager
Eliza Christopher	Phone Canvasser
Carly Coughlin	Phone Director
Ashley Fleck	Canvasser
Meghan Hein	Canvasser
Linnea House	Executive Director
Candice Johnson	Field Director
Maija Johnson	Canvasser
Whitney Lawrence	Canvasser
Victoria LePage	Canvasser
Adam Lutterman	Phone Trainer
Janae Marshall	Phone Manager
Gizelle Malarkey	Canvasser
Jennifer Piller	Canvasser
Becky Smith	Office Manager
Victoria VanDerCreek	Canvasser

## 2010 Pro-Choice Lobby Day

Once again, the pro-choice community stood together at the State Capitol to raise our voices in support of Minnesota's youth! On Thursday, March 4, community members and activists from across the state traveled to St. Paul to train with advocates, rally in the Rotunda, and lobby their elected officials. The 2010 Pro-Choice Lobby Day focused primarily on the responsible and comprehensive sex education bill that protects our youth by giving them the tools they need to make safe and healthy choices.

During the rally in the Rotunda, we heard from bill authors Sen. Sandy Pappas and Rep. Frank Hornstein describe why they work so diligently on this policy, faith leaders speak about their sacred work, and from community activists working within their local school system to get common sense sex education to our youth.

Our partners this year were Midwest Health Center for Women, Minnesota NOW, Women's Health Center of Duluth, Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Law Students for Reproductive Justice, Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Nursing Students for Choice, and the Women's Student Activist Collective.



## Building the Future of the Pro-Choice Movement: NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's Student Organizing Program

For over 15 years, student activists across Minnesota have organized their campuses to fight for reproductive rights. In addition to educating their peers about the current threats against their rights, these activists are gaining the skills necessary to become leaders, both on their campuses and in the broader pro-choice movement.

Through their internship with NARAL, our 2009-2010 activists report:

- Growing into a stronger leader, and positively impacting their confidence and organizing skills;
- Deepening their awareness of the importance of political advocacy in protecting reproductive rights, especially through visits to legislators at Pro-Choice Lobby Day
- Connecting with the reproductive rights community and learning how comprehensive sexuality health includes abortion rights
- Allowing opportunities to become key coalition partners with other groups on their campus, and in the larger community

There is much to be proud of when looking at the work of these amazing young activists. We appreciate their dedication, creativity, sense of humor, and fierce determination to never back down when it comes to reproductive rights.

Finally, we thank the Otto Bremer Foundation for its funding of our Student Organizing Program's program evaluation. Their support allows us to improve our programs effectiveness and ability to sustain long-term changes in the reproductive rights movement.



## State Funded Lies

### What is a Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC)?

Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are 'fake' clinics most often run by anti-choice organizations that advertise free services to women facing unintended pregnancies. Many CPCs are run by or affiliated with national networks, such as CareNet, Bethany Christian Services, Birthright, and Heartbeat International. The most common services include free pregnancy testing, onsite ultrasound or ultrasound referrals, selective options counseling, and short-term materials or healthcare assistance. Some CPCs also operate or work in connection with adoption agencies. The majority of CPCs are volunteer-run, though some have medically-licensed staff onsite, often working as volunteers.

While many CPCs claim to provide unbiased information and assistance to pregnant women, their fundamental goal is to dissuade women from exploring the full range of reproductive health options. To attain this goal, they often times provide women facing unintended pregnancies with medically inaccurate and intentionally deceptive information on reproductive health, fetal development, contraception, and abortion. There are at least 91 crisis pregnancy centers currently operating in Minnesota.

### CPCs in Minnesota

In 2005, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law a new funding stream to help CPCs in Minnesota through his Positive Alternatives grant program. Of the current grant recipients, over 90% are CPCs and can use state funding to pay for billboard ads, and do not have provide a list of abortion providers, even if client specifically asks for one.

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota conducted research into CPCs in the past, and showed that CPCs use deceptive tactics to dissuade women in difficult situations from accessing or learning more about all of her reproductive options, particularly access to safe and legal abortion. The reproductive rights community has been concerned about these practices for over twenty years, primarily because they employ tactics that seek out vulnerable women and deprive or deceive them of the information they seek. In addition to being anti-abortion, they often espouse an anti-contraception philosophy.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota supports programs that provide the highest standard of medically accurate health care that Minnesota women and their families deserve.** However, the practices of CPCs do not meet these high standards, and this summer we will launch work to develop strategies to ensure that Minnesota funds programs that provide only the best possible services to Minnesota women.



## Meet the Interns of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

For most of its history, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has relied on the energy, knowledge, and expertise of young women and men working as interns. In addition to providing key staff time to our work, a NARAL internship provides an opportunity to gain working experience and develop leadership skills for the next generation of pro-choice leaders. We are proud to introduce you to two of our latest interns:

### Ella Vincent



Ella is currently a student at the University of Minnesota, studying political science and French, and during the 2010 Legislative Session was a Legislative Assistant to Senator John Marty. She's been a volunteer since January 2008, and since that time has filled a variety of duties- office work, escorting and escort management, and recently took on the role of Election Intern.

*"I volunteer with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota because the protection of reproductive choice is crucial for the health of individuals and for the health of society as a whole. From escorting at a clinic to raising awareness through event tabling, every volunteer experience I have had with NARAL has impressed upon me the progress that can be made, while also revealing the obstacles and opposition that make this work so necessary. This is why I keep coming back."*

### Sonia Brummer



Sonia worked previously as a canvasser with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's Field Canvass program, and currently serves as our Clinic Escort program intern since June 2008. In her words:

*"I am driven to have a successful Clinic Escort Program because everybody has a legal and human right to access their health care services safely. It is a fundamental right for women to make their own reproductive health decisions. The protestors are incredibly offensive, rude and intimidating - escorts work hard to create a calm and professional atmosphere for patients and clinic staff. I dream that someday these protestors will discuss their opinions in an appropriate place and our work here will not be necessary."*

## We Need to Elect Pro-Choice Legislators - We Need You!

The 2010 Election Cycle is underway and moving faster than normal this year—thanks in part to the new Statewide Primary Election Date of August 10th.

This year we also stand an incredible chance of electing a Pro-Choice Governor, as well as protecting seats in the House and Senate but to do this we need volunteers! A few hours of phone banking can get the word out about a Pro-Choice challenger in rural Minnesota. Two hours of door knocking with a hand full of volunteers can edge out a narrow victory for a Pro-Choice incumbent.

With these two simple actions we can finally wave good bye to 8 years of anti-choice politics at the Capitol and being on the defense to move forward a Pro-Choice agenda!

**Go to [volunteer@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:volunteer@prochoiceminnesota.org) and sign up today!**



## Summer of Pro-Choice Fun!

With the summer festival season upon us, we believe no summer is complete without spending a few hours tabling for choice!

We will be tabling at events across Minnesota, supporting our basic rights to privacy and choice. We'll be on hand talking about comprehensive sex education, reproductive rights, access to family planning, and naturally, there will some talk about the Supreme Court, who is going to fill the vacancy, and how that outcome will support and protect our individual rights.

And we need you! **We rely on our cadre of amazing volunteers to work at our NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota booth.** If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at [volunteer@ProChoiceMinnesota.org](mailto:volunteer@ProChoiceMinnesota.org) or call 651-602-7655.

Our list of scheduled events:

- Twin Cities Pride Festival - June 26th and 27th
- Rochester Pride Festival - July 17th
- Moorhead Pride Festival - August 14th
- Duluth Pride Festival - September 4th
- Mankato Pride Festival - September 11th
- St. Cloud Pride Festival - September 27th



## NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota presents :

11<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Comedy for Choice

Thursday, July 15, 2010  
doors open @ 6 pm  
show @ 7 pm

Tickets : \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door  
\$160 for a 4 person table + 4 free drinks  
Table Sponsorships available

### Varsity Theater

1308 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE - Dinkytown Minneapolis  
Park on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

RSVP @ [www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org](http://www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org) or 651-602-7655

*Performers :*  
Joseph Scrimshaw  
Allison Broeren  
Mike Fotis  
Ben San Del

*hosted by :*  
Curt Lund

## The 11th Annual Comedy for Choice event is just around the corner – and is an event you don't want to miss!

**You can join us in many ways - from buying individual tickets (\$35 each), to sponsoring tables of four, with four free drinks for \$160. We also have sponsorship levels available, that come with their own perks.**

**Comedy for Choice is a great opportunity to support the right to choose and see a great ensemble of comedians, as well as your favorite elected officials.**

**Don't delay - buy your tickets now!**

