

# the Positive Voice

## WOMEN'S HEALTH Boulder Valley Women's Health Center

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## INDEPENDENT ABORTION PROVIDERS: Our Proud History and Our Role Today

A group of local citizens who wanted to assure that women could access safe abortion care in our community founded the Boulder Valley Clinic, now known as Women's Health, in 1973.

Our founders came from a variety of backgrounds but most had had some experience with abortion prior to the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Some had accompanied friends to Mexico for an illegal abortion, some had counseled abortion patients in other states, and some had been on a panel of physicians that determined whether a woman "qualified" to have a legal abortion in Colorado pre-*Roe*. We were founded because compassionate people wanted to address a local need.

Post-*Roe v. Wade*, feminists and physicians started opening locally-owned abortion care clinics in communities throughout the U.S. This outpatient care model kept the cost of the procedure more affordable for patients who were paying out of pocket while also providing safe, high-quality care. These "indies" set a new standard for all healthcare—laying the groundwork for affordable, exceptional outpatient specialty services.

Fast forward 44 years and today Women's Health is a comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care specialist. While our scope of practice has expanded, the depth of our compassion remains. We are independent, locally founded, locally governed and locally focused. We are nimble and connected with the communities we serve. You may not realize that independent abortion providers like Women's Health perform the majority of abortions in the U.S. Two-thirds of all abortions are provided by local independent abortion clinics – some clinics for profit, some nonprofit, and all with a local mission.

Given that independent abortion providers provide the majority of abortions in the U.S, it is unfortunate and unfair that Planned Parenthood bears the brunt of anti-abortion political rhetoric and targeted legislative attacks. But these attacks often cast a broad net and ultimately hurt all providers. In this political climate, now more than ever, independent providers need your support. Women's Health remains committed to our legacy of serving this community and our local mission. Can we count on your support? ❖



# Making our Voices Heard, in Denver and Washington

photo by April Stevenson



Women's Health and our partners in the Colorado Reproductive Freedom Coalition rally outside the Colorado State Capitol on March 16 as part of our annual statewide Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day.



Women's Health Executive Director Susan Buchanan and Finance Director Heidi Halpern at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

**O**n March 16, Women's Health staff and supporters, along with our partners in the Colorado Reproductive Freedom Coalition, lobbied our state legislators in support of HB1186, 12-month dispensing of prescription contraception. This bill would require insurance companies to dispense 12 months of the birth control pill or patch at one time. Getting to the pharmacy every 28 days can pose a problem for women who are without transportation or childcare, who live in rural areas of the state, who work irregular hours, or who plan to travel or live out of the country. Having a supply of contraceptives on hand reduces gaps in use and decreases the risk of unintended pregnancy. We're happy to report that this common sense legislation passed both the House and the Senate and is now on its way to the Governor for his signature!

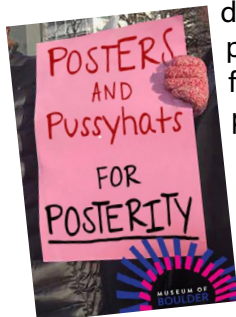
Meanwhile in March, Women's Health Executive Director Susan Buchanan and Finance Director Heidi Halpern traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby our national leaders on healthcare reform, Medicaid expansion, and preserving Title X (ten), the federal family planning program. Women's Health is the only Title X provider in Boulder County. It is this essential government funding which allows us to slide our fees to \$0 for patients under the federal poverty line, subsidizing care for those most in need in our community. ❖

**Stay informed! Sign up for our email list and read our blog on our website.**

## Calling all Marchers!

**Did you attend the March on Denver or Washington (or in another city) on Jan. 21?**

The Museum of Boulder is actively collecting objects pertaining to the 2017 Women's March. Some cultural connection to Boulder is preferred but all donation ideas are welcome. If you have an object (poster, pussyhat, t-shirt, etc.) that you would like to



donate to the Museum's permanent collection for preservation and posterity, please email your info and a photo of the object(s) to Curator of Collections, Kristen Lewis, [kristen@museumofboulder.org](mailto:kristen@museumofboulder.org).



Women's Health Executive Director Susan Buchanan addresses the crowd at the Women's March on Denver on Jan. 21.



# SHAPE Winter Retreat

To prepare themselves for a busy Spring semester, youth from the Women's Health SHAPE program (Sexual Health & AIDS Awareness Peer Education), attended a winter retreat. SHAPers played games to refresh their sexual health knowledge, learned more information about our Teen Clinic, and had trainings on important topics like "How to be an Ally." SHAPers are high-school aged youth who are trained in sexual health so that they may educate their peers through classroom presentations, outreach at fairs and community events, on social media, and through one-to-one interactions.

This Spring, several SHAPers met with their state legislators at Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day (see *previous page*). They have 15 sexual health presentations scheduled in BVSD middle school classrooms this semester, as well as a panel for parents on communicating with kids about sex. SHAPers will also be speaking to the Denver Foundation and the City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Program on the importance of positive youth development and in support of funding for Women's Health Youth Services program. ❖



This year's SHAPE group includes 15 youth from 5 high schools throughout Boulder County. Pictured are the SHAPers with their adult mentors.

## Longmont's Unity in the Community



Women's Health was pleased to participate in "Unity in the Community" in Longmont in February. This annual event, sponsored by the Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce, brings together business, nonprofit, and political leaders from the community and the region. Women's Health was represented by (from left) Community Engagement Coordinator Lydia Sunderland, Bilingual Outreach Coordinator Daniella Escobar, and Gabriela Walters, Operations Supervisor of our Longmont clinic.

## Bilingual Outreach

Did you know that Women's Health has a Bilingual Outreach Coordinator that gives presentations to adults and teens in both English and Spanish? Here are some of our BOC Daniella Escobar's current activities:

- I Have A Dream Foundation, conducting youth classes in English on reproductive/sexual anatomy, gender and sexuality, and cultural attitudes, as well as classes for parents in Spanish;
- Presenting to Latinx parents in the St. Vrain Valley School District's Parents Involved in Education (PIE) program on effectively communicating with their kids about sex;
- Educating youth at Casa De La Esperanza in Longmont;
- Participating in a city of Longmont focus group to help Latinx communities be resilient to stressors. ❖

*Return Service Requested*

**Donate online at**  
[www.boulderwomenshealth.org](http://www.boulderwomenshealth.org)



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## Special Events

**Save the Date!**

**CONDOM  
COUTURE:**

**Ignite the Runway  
A Fashion Revolution**

**Saturday, October 7  
at the Boulder JCC**

**Now seeking Designers  
and Event Sponsors!**

Want to get involved? Check  
out our website for details or  
contact [lindsayc@bvwhc.org](mailto:lindsayc@bvwhc.org).

## Champions of Choice Annual Luncheon



photo by Christina Bonfanti

In March, Women's Health Champions of Choice got a chance to meet former Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet (second from right) at a luncheon at the Flagstaff House. Hessler-Radelet spoke about the status of women and girls worldwide and the difference that access to reproductive healthcare and education can make in a person's life. The annual Champions luncheon raises needed funds for abortion care at Women's Health. Champions of Choice are community members committed to protecting these services and keeping them available and affordable in our community. To become a Champion, contact [lindsayc@bvwhc.org](mailto:lindsayc@bvwhc.org). ❖