

WHAT DO TEACHERS THINK ABOUT SEX EDUCATION?

Despite the critical role that sexuality education teachers play in delivering accurate sexual health information to youth, their perspectives have been largely absent from the sexuality education debate. In conjunction with the University of Minnesota's Prevention Research Center, Pro-Choice Resources investigated teachers' experiences, trainings and attitudes surrounding sexuality education in schools.

Not surprisingly, teachers reported gaps and barriers in their preparation to teach sexuality education. For example, most had little to no training on *how to* teach sexuality education. They also identified other obstacles, like parents, policies, lack of time

and curriculum. A large majority of teachers indicated their current need for professional development opportunities in the areas of sexuality, pregnancy and sexuality transmitted infection prevention, as well as teaching sexual orientation and gender identity.

This research shows that challenges facing sexuality educators are significant. In general, teachers told us that they felt the stakes were higher for teaching sexuality education than other topic areas because of the real-life application of the subject matter. As one teacher put it: "Sex ed is unique in that if you're teaching English or you're teaching math, you're not necessarily teaching to

potentially influence behavior, that's not necessarily the goal. So that changes how you have to teach and what you have to talk about as well."

To ensure that all young people receive high-quality sexuality education, our teachers need support. Not only support from parents, school administrators and other teachers, but also supportive policies at the school-district and state level. And most importantly...support from you!

Take action to support teachers in your community **by sharing the enclosed findings**. You may also contact Nikki Madsen at nikki@birdsandbees.org or 612-825-2000 with questions or comments.

SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS!

We encourage you to share the attached research summary with five people in the educational system:

The Principal

Use the data to negotiate training, time and resources.

Your Colleagues

Emphasize the importance of allies when handling controversial topics.

Your Alma Mater

Advocate for sexuality education as a requirement in all education training programs.

The School Board

Engage them in discussion about the importance of health graduation standards.

Parent Advocates

Solicit their support in engaging a broader circle of parents who support comprehensive sexuality education.

Please see the enclosed research!

A Voice for Minnesota Families

On March 15 and April 12, 2011, PCR Executive Director Karen Law testified against House File 201 (Scott) and Senate File 0103 (Thompson). This proposed legislation would remove abortion funding from state-sponsored health programs.

In 2009 alone, 3,927 low-income Minnesota women and girls utilized these funds to pay for their abortions. That is over eight times as many women and girls as the Hersey Abortion Assistance Fund was able to help last year. Without these resources, thousands of women and girls in our state would be denied the right to choose simply because they are poor.

Karen went on record as a voice for Minnesota families by stating:

“In Minnesota, we have a strong history of supporting a pregnant woman in making personal, private decisions, even if those are decisions you might not agree with. The bills introduced are simply based in classist, sexist and racist ideologies and are an attack on poor women.”

You can read or watch Karen’s entire testimony by visiting our Facebook page by searching Pro-Choice Resources.



Karen Law testifying at the MN House

Thank You Bowlers and Supporters! ↙

Pro-choice bowling aficionados from across the country — yes, country — gathered at Bryant Lake Bowl (Uptown, Minneapolis) March 30th and 31st to throw down for reproductive rights and sexuality education. Nearly 300 bowlers strapped on their wrist guards and polished their Brunswicks to raise over \$63,000 for PCR’s 18th annual Bowl-a-Thon.



Team SLAMMERS strike a pose.

If you weren’t able to partake in the fun, check out the videos posted on our website at www.prochoiceresources.org. And if the mood *strikes*, you can donate anytime to support our critical programming.



The Flying Specula, otherwise known as Nursing Students for Choice.

We’d also like to take a moment to thank our sponsors. They take a risk in supporting our organization, so please support them.

Thank you!

2011 Bowl-a-Thon Sponsors

Captain Curveballs

Bryant Lake Bowl
Michael Birawer Paintings
Leah Drury
Fine Line Music Café
Michelle & Paige Green
North Star Roller Girls
The Park Tavern
Jane M. Skogstrom
Sue McLean & Associates
Wolkoff Wiik & Associates
The Woods Family

Rock’n Rollers

Alison Nowak Illustration
Anodyne Coffeehouse
Bar Abilene
Brent at the Beauty Room
Graves 601 Hotel
Karen C. Ruth Massage
Piccolo
Rick Bronson’s House
of Comedy

Bowling Buddies

Best Wishes Floral
Bibelot
Birchwood Café
Bitch Magazine
Black Sheep Coal
Fired Pizza
Blue Plate Restaurant
Company
Brave New Workshop
Wendy Brovold
Café Latte

Cara Irish Pubs
Comedy Sportz
Common Good Books
Core Power Yoga
Goddess of Glass
Hairpolice
Half Priced Books
The Herkimer
History Theatre
I Like You
Infintely Fit
Izzy’s Ice Cream Café
Joe’s Garage
Key North
June Krienke, Independent
PartyLite Consultant
Karen Law
Let’s Dish
Minnesota Lynx
Ordway Center for the
Performing Arts
Our Bodies Ourselves
Patrick’s Cabaret
Peace Coffee
Nichole Rohlfson
Roller Garden
ShowPlace Icon Theatre
SooVAC
Stella’s Fish Café
Stroker Ace Screen Printing
Treadle Yard Goods
Urban Animal
Valleyfair
Web Expeditions
The Wellness Center

Making a Difference

A little something extra special was given away at this year's Bowl-a-Thon — a seven night stay at a home in Cocoa Beach, Florida. How did we land this incredible prize? Michelle Green, an avid follower of Pro-Choice Resources on Facebook, contacted us to share her story.

“My mom worked for an airline in the early 1960s, and had an affair with a married pilot. Her options were to have an abortion or get fired. She ended up having an abortion and keeping her job. Shortly after, she was stationed in the Twin Cities where she met my dad. So if it wasn't for the abortion, I wouldn't have been born.

Today, I'm a foster mom for teenage girls. Sometimes my gals have been in the same situation as my mom. And I support them in whichever decision they make — parenting, abortion or adoption. I'm all about prevention, but I stand proud for choice. I'd like to offer my home in Cocoa Beach, Florida as

a fundraising incentive for your organization. My hope is that you raise money to help people like my mom and girls.”

And raise money we did! As a direct result of Michelle's generous donation, we were able to pay for the abortion of a woman incarcerated at Shakopee Women's Correctional Facility. This is no small feat because inmates are required to pay for the cost of travel and guard expenses in addition to the cost of the abortion. That means her 7 week abortion cost \$1,000 instead of \$500.

Thank you Michelle for making a difference in so many lives.



Michelle Green

Let's Talk About Sex

PCR is offering its third Sexuality Residency beginning June 17, 2011. The Sexuality Residency is a unique opportunity for licensed and pre-service teachers to gain extensive training in delivering sexuality education for middle and high school aged youth. For more information, please visit www.birdsandbees.org/training.htm.

Why Do You Bowl?

There's a reason our Bowl-a-Thon just celebrated its 18th year: passion. Every one of our bowlers is passionate about sexuality education and reproductive rights, and their passion is fueled by their life stories and events. Ellen Hannaher of Dottie's Might Ten Pins shares why she bowls:

“Dottie's Mighty Ten Pins had a lot to be thankful for this year. Raising over \$3,000 for PCR, YAY! Most importantly our accomplishment would have meant the world to our grandmother, Dorothy (Dottie) Harris who was a supporter of pro-choice initiatives from way back in the day. In the early 1970's before Roe v. Wade made abortion legal throughout the United States, New York began allowing legal abortions up through the 24th week of pregnancy.

During this time, Dottie would let women stay in her home when they came to New York for an abortion. She wanted them to have a safe place to stay while they were receiving the services they needed. She was before her time in her acceptance and support of choice in a big way. We salute her today, and thank her for her inspiration.”

If you'd like to share your story, whether it's about why you bowl or why you donate, contact Wendy Brovold at wendy@birdsandbees.org.



Dottie's Mighty Ten Pins



Dorothy (Dottie) Harris

Pro-Choice Resources

PROMOTING EDUCATION & ACCESS

250 3rd Ave. N, Suite 625
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: 612.825.2000
Fax: 612.825.0159
Email: pcr@birdsandbees.org
Online: www.prochoiceresources.org
www.birdsandbees.org

PCR Staff:

Karen Law - Executive Director
Nikki Madsen - Associate Director
Amy Marsicano - Director of Sexuality Education
April Jennings - Sexuality Residency Coordinator
Melissa Winship - Access & Outreach Coordinator
Wendy Brovold - Communications & Fundraising Director
Interns: Nichole Rohlfson and Andrea Schossow



What's Better than Condoms?

Condoms-on-a-stick of course! Pro-Choice Resources relies on our dedicated volunteers to staff the only pro-choice booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Last year we had over 7,000 people stop by and say hi, pick up some information and, of course, snag their condom-on-a-stick.

So are you ready to help people “get together” a bit more safely at the Great Minnesota Get Together? Excellent! Then email us at pcr@birdsandbees.org to get on the MN State Fair contact list. We will contact you in early summer to sign-up for one of our two-hour volunteer training sessions.

We guarantee a good time!



Condoms-on-a-Stick!



The only pro-choice booth at the Fair!

**The MN State Fair runs
August 25 through
September 5**

**Email pcr@birdsandbees.org to
get on our State Fair
contact list.**