

Below is a screen shot from a Planned Parenthood publication showing that Pam Smallwood, whom the Girl Scouts honored as a “Woman of Distinction” was employed by Planned Parenthood for 30 years. The relevant text is highlighted in yellow to make it easier to see. The publication can be accessed online [here](#).

www.plannedparenthood.org/ppwaco/images/Central-Texas-Health-Centers/SpringSummer10%281%29.pdf

woman who wishes to do so, benefits from the pill and other forms of birth control. This anniversary resonated with me because I became CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas on May 1st.

Since high school, I have felt strongly about ensuring that everyone who needs medical care has access to it. My dedication to this cause led me to pursue a Master of Public Health degree at Columbia University. For the past two and a half years, I have been in the position of Director of Organizational Development here, and am passionate about our mission of providing comprehensive, quality healthcare and education to Central Texans.

Recently, I've had several conversations with friends and acquaintances who wonder why I care so much about Planned Parenthood.

I care because:

- I have seen how birth control enables women to plan their own futures by giving them the ability to make decisions about the type of education, employment, economics, and lifestyles they envision for themselves and their children. Planned Parenthood of Central Texas has provided health care to the daughters and grand-daughters of women who first came to our health center in Waco over seventy years ago.
- I have heard the stories women tell about the introduction of the pill which provide witness to how the pill changed their lives by enabling them to reach their potential and fulfill their dreams for their families.

**FAREWELL TO PAM SMALLWOOD**

In April of this year, we said goodbye to Pam Smallwood. Pam had worked at PPCT for 30 years – the last ten as CEO. Under her leadership, Planned Parenthood saw many accomplishments, including a 46% increase in patient numbers since 2006. Pam has left Waco, but did not leave the Planned Parenthood family; she is now serving as the Chief Operating Officer of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region in Austin.

Parenthood health centers in Central Texas have been offering trusted and reliable information to men and women, so they can pick a form of birth control that meets their particular needs. In addition to birth control needs, Central Texan men and women are served at Planned Parenthood through a range of services including breast and cervical cancer screenings, well-woman exams, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, abortion care, and comprehensive sex education. In 2009, the Planned Parenthood health centers in Waco and Marlin provided over 25,000 medical services to 12,762 individual clients.

- I know that even as we celebrate the pill's golden anniversary, we must remember that many men and women in our community still do not have access to affordable, effective birth control. In fact, the work of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas remains just as critical now as it was in 1939, when we first opened our doors.

We have much in which to take pride. However, there is more to do: there are still far too many unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases that could be avoided if only we could reach more people.

I look forward to working with you – the outstanding team of Planned Parenthood professionals, volunteers, and advocates to provide life-saving health care to Central Texans.

