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## **Planned Parenthood Golden Gate Kicks Off Campaign to Build Maternal Waiting Village in Ethiopia**

SAN FRANCISCO—Planned Parenthood Golden Gate (PPGG) is kicking off a \$250,000 fundraising campaign to build a new maternity waiting village in Hossana, Ethiopia. PPGG's partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) has increased family planning and healthy pregnancy services for Ethiopian women since 2000. In the 800 villages served, contraceptive use has increased 300% in just 5 years. PPGG and EECMY are currently working to build a maternity waiting village to reduce cases of maternal and infant mortality. The campaign to build the maternal waiting village begins tonight with a fundraiser at a private San Francisco residence and an online contribution page: <http://www.ppgg.org/ethiopia>.

“Planned Parenthood Golden Gate is committed to expanding access to reproductive health care locally and globally,” said Dian Harrison, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Golden Gate. “The Bush administration’s global gag rule is cutting health care funds that are vital to developing nations, making the support of non-governmental organizations, like Planned Parenthood, more critical than ever.”

Ethiopia faces many challenges in the public health sector:

- There are only 3 physicians per 100,000 people in Ethiopia (World Health Organization, *Global Health Access 2005*.)
- 40% of Ethiopians live within an hour walk (3 miles) of a modern health care facility. 30% of households live more than 6 miles from a health facility (*Ethiopia: A Country Status Report on Health and Poverty*, The World Bank, June 2004.)
- Actual contraceptive use is only 13% for women and 17% for men. (*Ethiopia: A Country Status Report on Health and Poverty*, The World Bank, June 2004.)
- “Backyard” abortion is the second biggest killer of women in Ethiopia where abortion is illegal but common (Ethiopian Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians.)
- About 5% of births take place in health facilities. Only 6% of births are attended by skilled health personnel (World Health Organization, *World Health Report 2005, Annex Table 8*.)
- Many Ethiopian women give birth at a young age with no obstetric care. This often leads to obstetric fistulae, which can result in lifelong incontinence and discomfort. At least 8,000 Ethiopian women develop new fistulas every year (Population Reference Bureau.)

### **The Maternal Waiting Village Partnership: PPGG and EECMY**

The EECMY is the largest Protestant church in Ethiopia. It has struggled for decades to provide maternity care, family planning, HIV prevention, and other health care services with few resources. Several years ago, the EECMY established a maternal waiting village in Hossana, a remote city about 200 kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa. The village provided a place for rural women dealing with high-risk pregnancies to live and receive prenatal and delivery care as well as family planning and health education. Due to a lack of resources, the village fell into disrepair and is no longer functional.

PPGG is dedicated to raising the funds to build a new maternity waiting village adjacent to the Hossana hospital. The maternal waiting village project will include a training program for local nurses and improvements to the existing community health program. PPGG will also help EECMY meet its medical equipment and supply needs.

Award-winning San Francisco architect Anne Fougeron, who has collaborated on several PPGG building projects, enthusiastically volunteered her services for the design of the new Hossana family planning and health center. Her completed plans, which include cluster housing for the clients, are modern and functional, yet rely on indigenous architectural forms.

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Planned Parenthood Golden Gate is a non-profit health organization that has been helping women, men and teens make responsible choices for more than 83 years. Since 1923, Planned Parenthood Golden Gate has been committed to delivering the highest quality reproductive health care, teaching responsible and age-appropriate sexuality education and has been working diligently to protect a woman's right to choose. Each year more than 65,000 women, men and teens visit Planned Parenthood Golden Gate's eight health centers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit PPGG's website at [www.ppgg.org](http://www.ppgg.org) for more information on reproductive health issues and the services PPGG provides.