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New Planned Parenthood site worries locals

Ed Langlois, Of the Catholic Sentinel

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This fall, Planned Parenthood opened a new site between Milwaukie and Oregon City on Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard.

Local pro-life advocates are concerned.

"The appearance of Planned Parenthood in an area where I often drive makes abortion and coercion of young girls a real and present threat," says Judy Winter of St. Philip Benizi Parish in Oregon City. Winter has sent money to Oregon Right to Life, but has avoided protests because they seem so far away. But she has been holding "Pray to End Abortion" signs on McLoughlin Boulevard. She reports that thumbs up drivers have outnumbered those opposing the protesters about 10 to 1.



Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel
The new Planned Parenthood site on McLoughlin Boulevard has some neighbors concerned.

"I am very blessed for being called to pray for babies, mothers-to-be, and providers at these clinics," says Lydia Roskey, who leads the 40 Days for Life campaign at St. Philip Benizi Parish in Oregon City. "I pray they all come to the Truth."

The new Planned Parenthood center is open Tuesday through Saturday. It offers abortion-inducing drugs, but not surgical abortions, according to the Planned Parenthood website. Surgical abortions in the Portland area are offered at the Northeast Portland on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

"It makes me sick at heart," says Joanne Eggmann, executive director of Hope 360, a pro-life pregnancy help center in Oregon City. Eggmann maintains that in addition to offering abortion, Planned Parenthood curriculum encourages young people to have sex before they are ready. That not only creates the need for more abortion, but appears to drives up teen depression and suicide, she says.

Hope 360 offers pregnancy tests, ultrasound screenings, prenatal vitamins, parenting classes and emotional counseling support for women who have had abortions.

Planned Parenthood also has sites in Beaverton, Southeast Portland, Salem and Vancouver, Wash.

Sites in Clackamas, Gresham and Salmon Creek, Wash. have closed in recent years.

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