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**Teen Pregnancy Prevention was Theme at Local Planned Parenthood
Gala Fundraiser with Keynote Speaker Jane Fonda and 10 Honorees.**

“Planned Parenthood is not an organization about abortion, as some would want you to think. It is the organization that five million American women turn to for health care every year. Planned Parenthood is an organization that changes lives for the better and I’m honored to be here.”

—Jane Fonda at fundraising gala for Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc.

South Palm Beach & Broward Counties— Celebrating 32 years serving two counties, Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc. staged a glamorous yet heartfelt fundraising gala on January 6 at the Marriott Hotel in Coral Springs with celebrity guest speaker Jane Fonda and 10 honorees, nine of which are local leaders.

At the 32nd Anniversary Gala & Auction titled “*Exceptional Women and Men of 2006*,” some 250 guests listened enraptured to the powerful speeches of each exceptional honoree praising the organization for its remarkable work in providing affordable, comprehensive reproductive health services and for its highly successful model teen pregnancy prevention and teen health programs since 1997.

“I am honored to be accepting an award in the same company of such distinguished fellow honorees and Jane Fonda,” said Broward County Commissioner Stacy Ritter, a longtime supporter of a woman’s right to choose and full access to reproductive health care. Her sentiment was echoed by the nine other “*Exceptional Women and Men of 2006*,” each of whom praised the Planned Parenthood affiliate for its work with teens.

“Prevention, protection and privacy are the cornerstones of our reproductive health care services for women and men, teens through senior citizens,” said Mary Capobianco, CEO/president of the local Planned Parenthood affiliate. “In following the Carrera Model program of teen pregnancy prevention, we can report zero teen pregnancies and no school drop-outs,” she said about their two after school programs.

Dr. Michael Carrera, Director of Adolescent Sexuality & Pregnancy Prevention at the Children’s Aid Society, NY, was honored for his 47 years of work in this field. His mesmerizing speech was punctuated with examples of how teens were turned around through the holistic model he developed and why the abstinence-only programs are failures. (more)

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The other award-winners receiving crystal vases were: powerful orator U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, Hon. Chris Smith, Hon. Anne Gannon, Hon. Eleanor Sobel, Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin, community leaders Gale Butler and Ellen Sanders Galkin; and Sam Jordan of the Broward County Boys & Girls Club.

Jane Fonda listened intently to each speech and said she was moved by their commitment to the Planned Parenthood mission and to teen pregnancy prevention in particular. Fonda established her own foundation in Atlanta, the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (G-CAPP), and counts Dr. Carrera among her friends and her mentor, she said.

Following dinner and awards, Ms. Fonda began her speech with accolades for the work Planned Parenthood does as “the most trusted, caring health organization that women and teens turn to for their needs.” She praised guests for attending and helping to raise funds to support their local affiliate.

“Planned Parenthood is not an organization about abortion, as some would want you to think,” she said. “It is the organization that five million American women turn to for health care every year. Planned Parenthood changes lives for the better and I’m honored to be here.” she said.

Then Ms. Fonda launched into sharing the fascinating journey of her life in its “third act.” An actress/activist/author and humanitarian, Fonda said that 10 years ago, at age 59, she decided that the third and last part of her life would be about preventing adolescent pregnancy. Referencing her book *My Life So Far*, she said when her famous father died in 1981 she spent time at his bedside finally getting to know him and learning about his many life regrets. Consequently, she said she wasn’t afraid of dying, but was terrified that she would also die with regrets, so has set out to rectify that by “living intentionally”; making the third act important by “weaving it into a meaningful tapestry so I will die with as few regrets as possible.”

Fonda won over the audience with her candid self-evaluation and life wisdom. She discussed the year she spent researching herself, intent on self-discovery, and her surprising discoveries: “I realized what I would regret, and that was never having had an intimate relationship. That is when two people aren’t afraid to bring their whole selves to the table.”

Following her in-depth revelation and other personal wisdom, she took questions from guests and was honest and forthcoming in her answers. The audience responded with a prolonged, standing ovation.

“I never really liked her before tonight,” said guest Philip Kapp, “now I just love her. Hearing her in person, she won me over!”

For more information or to donate, call the Planned Parenthood affiliate headquarters in Boca Raton: 561/394-3540 x 212 and visit www.lovecarefully.org.

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Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest, most trusted voluntary reproductive health organization. We believe everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child and that every child should be planned, wanted and loved. Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc., founded in 1975, operates five quality, affordable health centers for women, men and teens and two model T.E.E.N. Society programs. It's slogan “We’re more than you think!” reflects the multitude of health services provided.

For information, call: **561/394-3540 or 954/480-9744** and visit www.lovecarefully.org