

Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom: SYRF in the spotlight

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice's youth activist program is mobilizing more than 800 spiritual, pro-choice youth on more than 45 college campuses. Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom (SYRF) activists are communicating their pro-choice, pro-faith views and bringing more youth into the movement through thought-provoking interfaith discussion panels, collaborative programs with environmental and other reproductive rights groups, movie screenings, pro-choice proms and exhibits on campus greens from Boston to Texas. The SYRF chapter at the University of Missouri, Columbia co-sponsored a pro-choice fashion show and donated proceeds to the Feminist Majority's Clinic Access Project and Planned Parenthood's Women in Need Fund. Oberlin College students worked with Oberlin Hillel, the Ohio RCRC affiliate, and local clergy to host a lecture by Dr. Susan Wood, the former Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health. Dr. Wood motivated students by sharing her personal story and her decision to resign her post because of her objection to the agency's repeated delays in approving over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception. SYRF students have also hosted interfaith programs such as "Sex on the Mall" at Purdue University; "Religion, Medicine & Reproductive Rights" at South Texas College of Law; "Sex and the Environment" at Oberlin College and Case Western Reserve University; "Faith and Reproductive Choice Clergy Panel" at George Washington University; *Roe v. Wade* moving screening; and "Christian CondomNation" at Texas Christian University. For more information about SYRF programming, please contact Emily Goodstein at egoodstein@rcrc.org or visit www.syrf.org to learn more about spiritual, pro-choice youth activities.

La Iniciativa Latina: Breaking the Silence

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is broadening the reproductive rights movement through our work with Latino churches through *La Iniciativa Latina* (LIL). Our outreach to the Latino community of faith and our faith-based sexuality education help to break the silence among Latino youth, adults, and clergy about sexuality issues in the context of Latino values, religion and culture. The initiative's consultants, Reverend Evelyn Perez and Reverend Diego Delgado Miller, assist Latino congregations in addressing teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS through education, training, and open forums on comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health and justice education. The Latino community is struggling with alarming increases in teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS cases, and incidences of sexually transmitted infections. Our medically-accurate, comprehensive, faith-based sexuality education helps confront these issues by prompting candid dialogue about sex and sexuality in these traditionally conservative religious communities. Our Latino programming is currently focused in New York, Chicago, and Wisconsin. To learn more about this initiative, please contact Reverend Penny Willis at pwillis@rcrc.org or visit the La Iniciativa Latina section of our website, www.rcrc.org/programs/iniciativa_latina.cfm. Our LIL website includes information about upcoming events and bilingual resources for Latino youth and adults, including *Twelve Things Clergy Can Do to Prevent Teen Pregnancy* and a Latino youth newsletter.