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## Clinic project strains at seams of United Way gift umbrella

By Mike Latona

**U**nited Way says it's not taking a stand.

Planned Parenthood begs to differ.

The debate does not mark the first clash over abortion to take place between a United Way and its local Planned Parenthood. But the situation is fairly new to the Rochester area.

At issue is the December, 1991, announcement by United Way of Greater Rochester that it will change the funding status of Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley — if that agency follows through on its plan to open an abortion clinic in 1993.

Last month, the United Way declared it would withdraw general-allocation funding from Planned Parenthood as soon as the agency opened the abortion clinic. From that point forward, United Way would classify Planned Parenthood as a "donor-option" agency.

The change in status means Planned Parenthood would receive only those United Way funds specifically designated for it by contributors to the United Way campaign.

For the last 22 years, Planned Par-

enthood has been one of numerous local agencies receiving United Way funds through the general-allocation process.

General-allocation is the term used for undesignated funds. Each member agency's share is determined by United Way's Allocations Committee, a group comprising volunteers from the community. In addition to the agency's need, a key criterion in the decision-making process is how effectively that agency has utilized past funds according to United Way guidelines.

All of these agencies — currently numbering 253 — are eligible for donor-option contributions as well. More than 300 agencies are funded through donor option only.

Planned Parenthood officials emphasize that no United Way funds have ever gone — nor would they go in the future — toward the performance of abortions.

Nevertheless, the United Way's board of directors said it took action because it feared a marked decline in campaign contributions if United Way

Continued on page 14

