



Photo: Maira Nelson

Emily Robinson works on planned giving and major gifts. She's been with Population Connection over a year and loves talking with members.

Meet the Staff:

*Emily Robinson, Development Assistant Extraordinaire
by Zoya Bozhko, Development Intern*

On my first day at Population Connection, I was given a tour of the offices and introduced to my new coworkers. Upon the words, "This is Emily, our Development Assistant," a tiny young woman (5'0" to be exact) got up from behind her paper-cluttered desk to say hello. Standing in front of a bulletin board covered with family pictures and a carefully placed photo of Bruce Springsteen, Emily already seemed like a total contradiction. Despite her small stature, I was to find out later that Emily is one of the largest supporters, both ideologically and actively, of Population Connection's goals. Here is her story...

Emily Robinson: Fundraiser, Activist and Minister-to-be

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, Emily fittingly joined Population Connection in June of 2002 as a Government Relations Fellow. Two months later, however, she had already discovered her hidden talent and moved to the Development Department. Here she began working with planned gifts. In her own words, the most enjoyable aspect of her job is, "enabling individuals to make sound financial investments while benefiting their favorite charity and supporting a cause that they are passionate about." Besides her official responsibilities of maintaining contact with members, coordinating major gifts and assisting donors in setting up their planned gifts, Emily is also the right arm of our Director of Development and Membership, Liz Borg, and (due to the location of her office) the supreme source of answers to younger staff.

Emily came to Population Connection with a hefty background as a choice activist with Maryland's NARAL Pro-Choice America chapter. After graduation, she wanted to work with an organization where her vast experience with pro-choice issues could be

combined with her passion for environmental politics. Well, that's exactly the type of organization she found for herself.

Having spent over a year with Population Connection, Emily is eagerly planning the next stage in her life. In the fall of 2004, she is hoping to begin classes at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary, where she will study to become a Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Faith. While many may see going from fundraising work to becoming a seminarian as quite a jump, Emily knows that her experience at Population Connection is an extra advantage when it comes to her work with the Unitarian Church. She emphasizes social action as a cornerstone of the Unitarian witness and recognizes that being a socially involved individual is an essential characteristic of a religious leader.

It is evident that all of Emily's assorted interests and characteristics combine to make a very driven and committed activist. In fact, Emily hopes to put all her diverse qualifications to use by becoming a hospital chaplain or a director of a clinical pastoral education program.

Yet another exciting change in Emily's life is her recent engagement to her boyfriend of 2 years. Eric is an environmental activist with the Sierra Club and is currently in graduate school—on his way to becoming a history teacher. They will be making their vows in June of 2004.

While we are very sad to only have Emily for one more year, and quite apprehensive about letting her go, we look forward to another year together. Her tiny self, as well as her huge personality, adds an energizing component to Population Connection.

Interested in supporting Population Connection's important programs? Contact Emily Robinson in the Development Department, (800) 767-1956.

