

NEWS SOURCE

2012 / Spring
Summer

 Planned Parenthood[®]
of Northern New England

www.ppnne.org

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THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US

Planned Parenthood has been under relentless attack. If the first five months of the year are any indication, we know as we get closer to the 2012 elections that Planned Parenthood will continue to face unexpected challenges. We've seen attempts to cut or eliminate our funding, anti-choice bills in our legislatures, and partners like the Komen Foundation (temporarily) succumb to pressures to cut ties with our organization. Yet, in the face of these unprecedented attacks, the outpouring of support we've seen has truly been inspiring.

We want to thank each and every supporter who spoke out, contributed, and stood with Planned Parenthood – without you, our work would not be possible.

Whether you became a PPNNE donor 3 months ago or 30 years ago, we are heartened to know you are standing with us. Politics should never get in the way of women's health care – whether it's access to birth control or breast cancer screenings. Together, we can ensure that our health center doors stay open and our patients get the care they need.

-Thank you! 

NEW PATIENT SAFETY ZONE WILL PROTECT OUR PATIENTS & STAFF

Last fall, we moved our Burlington Health Center from Mansfield Avenue to St. Paul Street. In this new location, we have seen an increase in protestor activity and their

proximity to our health center. Patients and staff have been physically approached and verbally harassed by protestors as they try to enter the health center, creating a serious

public safety issue. Protestors are also providing misinformation to patients about our medical procedures and their outcomes.

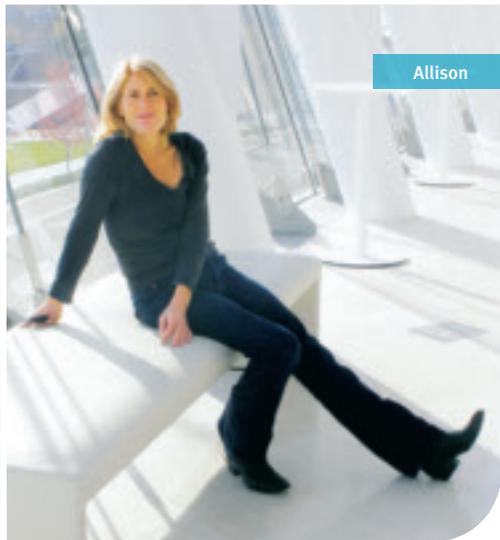
To address this issue, PPNNE worked with Burlington City Councilors to create a Patient Safety Zone.

“The Patient Safety Zone creates a clear 35-foot zone to ensure members of our community can safely enter or exit a reproductive health care facility without being harassed or blocked.”

The Zone also preserves free speech by allowing the exercise of this constitutional right outside of the small, but vitality important, Patient Safety Zone.

In May, the Burlington City Council passed the Patient Safety Zone Resolution with a strong vote of 13-1. The city ordinance committee will now take it up and then send it to City Council for a final vote. We anticipate a final decision this summer. [P](#)





Allison



Allison & family

DONOR PROFILE — Allison is here for us

This past February, we were heartened and inspired by the outpouring of support PPNNE experienced following the political attacks on our work and the initial decision of the Susan B. Komen Foundation to cease funding Planned Parenthood.

In a true testament of the strength of our supporters, the Komen Foundation reversed their decision just a few days later. During this time, thousands of supporters across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont rallied behind PPNNE and took action, made donations, and spoke out on the importance of our mission. The following profile is just one example of the many of you who were spurred to action and stood with Planned Parenthood when we needed you most.

Allison lives on a farm in Norwich, VT with her husband Keith, 2 biological sons Zach (20) & Jake (18), an adopted daughter Ava (5), and 29 animals, including dogs, cats, sheep, goats, chickens, a pig, and a donkey. Allison made her first gift to PPNNE in February, after learning about the Komen decision. We recently spoke to Allison on the phone to learn what inspired her to donate to PPNNE.

Q: Why is charitable giving important to you?

A: Much about life is a crapshoot. The location and time of your birth, privilege, circumstances of resources and education, and personal life experiences either give you a sense of communal

being, or leave you asking for one. Early care givers, enlightened teachers, inspirational civic leaders, as well as daily news, have developed my need to contribute to my community. As a stay-at-home mom and enthusiastic community volunteer, I know that often funding is the key to a nonprofit's success. And I'm happy to see that my children at ages 20, 18, and 5, recognize their abundance of material and intellectual resources and I'm proud to see each has already demonstrated a passion for giving.

Q: What made you decide to donate to PPNNE after the Komen decision?

A: When the Komen family lost Susan to breast

cancer, the family and the public made a commitment through the creation of the Susan B. Komen Foundation to ensure access to women's health services and build a community focused on treating and eradicating breast cancer. All women deserve access and choice regarding their overall health, so when the Komen Foundation withdrew support of Planned Parenthood, I felt they were stepping away from their commitment to educate the community and to support women's health choices. I felt the immediate need to support Planned Parenthood - that action was necessary from both old and new supporters to underscore our commitment to and the importance of their mission.

Q: What do you think of the political challenges facing Planned Parenthood and women's health care?

A: I am fortunate to live in a progressive bubble where medical, political, social, and personal factors encourage wellbeing and growth for all individuals. However, outside my bubble, I know there are those that use women as a scapegoat for controversial issues. I feel in the public realm, women's freedom of choice to care for their bodies has become fodder for power struggles between men.

When local state and federal governments threaten women's health care, I feel it is the civic responsibility for neighbors to step forward to ensure their community members have access to Planned Parenthood.

My daughter deserves the choice as to when, and if, and how many children she may choose to bring into the world. I find it absurd to think that as our world progresses we could turn the clocks back on women having a voice and a right over their own bodies and health. We live in one of the wealthiest nations in the world, where our boys and girls are promised a great future, and I refuse to allow gender to threaten one of my children's wellbeing.

Q: Why do you think giving to PPNNE is important?

A: I value that Planned Parenthood offers access to excellent health care, thoughtful and current education, committed and passionate service providers, and an institution that promises each person a deep respect. Women across many professions, ethnicities, levels of education, married or single, by biological parents or adopted, share intimate stories of needing and

using Planned Parenthood services during their lives. And with those stories comes a great sense of appreciation that Planned Parenthood respects their choices and delivers the services they need.

I find it absurd to think that as our world progresses we could turn the clocks back on women having a voice and a right over their own bodies and health. - Allison

Access to breast cancer screenings and safe access to birth control are vitally important for women and families. Also, Planned Parenthood has a sophisticated awareness of local and regional demographics, funding sources, the political landscape, and what needs to be done to ensure women's overall wellbeing. The world presents issues that require complex understanding and integrated responses, and I can sleep at night knowing Planned Parenthood is focusing on that for all women and families. 

THE HONOR ROLL: PPNNE Wins 4 Awards

We take great pride in the work we do each day to meet the needs of our patients and communities. We are thrilled to have received the following awards that honor our work and our staff.

Best Non-Profit

Portland Phoenix readers once again hailed PPNNE as the region's **Best Non-Profit** in the annual "Best Of" Awards. Our advocacy work and "sleek new digs on Congress Street" led readers to cast their vote for us. Congratulations to all of our **Portland Health Center & Administrative Staff!**

Best Local Activist

Portland Phoenix readers also honored PPNNE's Maine Grassroots Organizer **Jenna Vendil** by voting her the region's **Best Local Activist**. The Phoenix writes, "Portland is lucky to have Jenna Vendil in our midst. She's the youngest elected official on the city's school board, advocating for District One's students and their parents, and she's a grassroots



Volunteer Excellence Award

From left to right: Tausha Sylver, Manager of Board and Executive Affairs; Erika Keith, Volunteer Coordinator; Cecile Richards, President & CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and Tanna Clews, PPNNE Board Chair

organizer for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England; she's also worked with the League of Young Voters, the Maine People's Alliance, and the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Association." We were thrilled to have Jenna on staff for more than two years, and wish her the best of luck in her brand new role at the Maine Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign. Congratulations, Jenna!

Volunteer Excellence

At the Planned Parenthood National Conference, PPNNE was awarded the **Volunteer Excellence Award** for our program that recruits and places volunteers in health centers and in a variety of administrative departments. In the past two years, our volunteer program has experienced tremendous growth—a 400% increase in the number of regularly engaged volunteers—due



PPNNE Board Member
Reverend Marvin Ellison, Ph.D.

to targeted recruitment, careful matching, position descriptions, and staff's commitment to creating engaging, supportive learning environments for volunteers and interns. Congratulations to our Volunteer Coordinator, **Erika Keith** for this honor!

Reverends Davis Distinguished Service Award

Also at the National Conference, PPNNE Board Member **Reverend Marvin M. Ellison, Ph.D.** was awarded the **Reverends Davis Distinguished Service Award**. This award honors a clergy member who has advanced the cause of reproductive rights and demonstrated effective and sustained support for the mission and programs of Planned Parenthood. Congratulations, Reverend Ellison! [!\[\]\(9dfdaff1d86ba3c1f8353b4d1b61b8c5_img.jpg\)](#)

IN THE NEXT 24 hours...

more than 120 people will turn to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England for help. That's more than 44,000 local women, men, and teens each year. And we will help them with cancer screenings, pregnancy testing, contraception, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Against great odds, and in the face of a tough economy, PPNNE is able to help our patients because of the generosity of supporters like you.

Today, we will also run more than 21 cancer screenings and more than 74 tests for STIs. We'll provide 35 pregnancy tests, and hand out more than 400 condoms. And we will counsel all of our patients on how to stay healthy and how to avoid an unintended pregnancy.

PPNNE is uniquely qualified to fill the need for sexual health care services in our community. But we can only do this with your support.

A patient once wrote to us, "I am glad to know that you are here." We feel the same way about our supporters. Whether someone comes to us for pregnancy testing, birth control, cancer screening, or just for honest information, we can help our patients because you helped us. [!\[\]\(d0262bbe9d2356661a2e89321dfcc781_img.jpg\)](#)

Please use the enclosed envelope and make your tax-deductible gift to PPNNE today. Together we can make a real difference in the lives of so many. You can also make your gift online at www.ppnne.org/donate.



Lydia Lulkin, VT Public Affairs Intern

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

VERMONT

In Vermont, the 2012 legislative session started strong with a vote of overwhelming support for a resolution to honor the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. A group of students in our signature pink Planned Parenthood t-shirts were present for the roll call vote in the House, which passed 105 to 29.

The legislature passed several measures to increase access to health care. One critical step was moving toward a health care system that provides high quality care for all Vermonters. The new state law, “An Act Relating to Health Care Reform Implementation,” will give Vermonters access to better insurance plans at affordable prices. Through the new telemedicine bill, Vermonters in rural parts of the state will be able to receive access to health care by the prescription and distribution of medicine through two-way video conferencing.



Supporters & Staff with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree at our Maine Women Speak event

Thanks to the hard work of the Shumlin Administration, PPNNE partnered with the Vermont Department of Health to launch “Access Plan” – a new family planning program. Access Plan covers Vermonters up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and allows them free family planning services including birth control, annual exams, STI testing & treatment, and patient education and counseling. More than 5,000 Vermonters will benefit from this new plan.

MAINE

In the Maine Statehouse, we had some good news and some bad news during this short legislative session. The very good news is that no new bills to restrict access to abortion or birth control were submitted. The bad news is the same budget cut for FY 2013, beginning July 1, 2012, was proposed. As of this writing, the budget cut had not been resolved.

The proposed cut is to the Fund for a Healthy Maine, which funds a handful of public health programs focused on prevention. These include

tobacco control, anti-obesity programs, the public health infrastructure, oral health, and about \$400,000 for family planning. Almost all of the total \$60 million fund is slated for a cut in order to fund MaineCare costs. As important as MaineCare is for low income women and families, our public health programs are essential to prevent disease and poor health outcomes, including unintended pregnancy.

Last year, the Appropriations Committee said “no” to the cuts, and fully restored that portion of the budget. This year, the Governor used the line item veto in the last revised budget, meaning even if the committee does not accept the Governor’s budget cuts, he may still make the cuts. It could mean a loss of about \$100,000 for PPNNE.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

House Speaker Bill O’Brien and his Republican leadership team made restricting women’s health care a legislative priority this year - adopting eight separate proposals aimed at defunding preventive health care, repealing birth control coverage, or making it harder to access abortion.

Our top priority was defeating a bill to “defund Planned Parenthood.” By eliminating funding for public health programs, including Medicaid, at our 6 health centers in New Hampshire, more than 16,000 patients could have lost life-saving health care.

We also worked hard to defeat an attempted repeal of New Hampshire’s equity law, which requires access to contraception in prescription insurance coverage, and defeated legislation that would have banned all abortion after 20 weeks gestation and would have imposed a 24-hour waiting period for women seeking abortion care.

Despite the volume of attacks passed by the House, we applaud the Senate for working in a bipartisan manner to defeat or derail each of these proposals that would have directly jeopardized women’s health.

Kudos to PPNNE activists and volunteers who stood with Planned Parenthood, stepped out for our Day of Action on March 7th, or helped with phonebanks, visibility, and outreach. Your efforts clearly made the difference in bringing these attacks to a halt in New Hampshire.....for now. [P](#)



Supporters at a rally in Concord, NH

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Holly Schiavoni

Position: Site Manager Health Center: Manchester, NH

Why do you work for Planned Parenthood?

I believe in our mission and the importance of the services we provide to men and women in the community. I truly love this organization and the work that I do!

What is the most gratifying thing about your job?

I really enjoy problem solving and coming up with ideas about how to support the Health Center Team. I work with such amazing men and women, both colleagues and patients alike. I get so much out of every day interactions and working through difficult situations.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

Coffee. Plus knowing that another challenge always lies ahead.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to explore new places, listen to music, read, cook and be outdoors. 



Manchester Health Center in 2011: **6,108** patients **8,894** visits **\$1,995,784** of discounted or free health care



YOUR PLANNING TODAY can help someone get care tomorrow.

Someone like Erica T. from Manchester, NH.

She wrote, “When my grandmother died of breast cancer and my mother survived, Planned Parenthood was where I went for cancer screenings since I was in an at-risk group. I continued my yearly cancer screenings during my early 20’s when I couldn’t afford insurance. I could never have kept up with the cost of potentially life-saving screenings without Planned Parenthood and their affordable health care services.”

Help women like Erica get the screenings and services they need – and that you care about – well into the future.

“ I could never have kept up with the cost of potentially life-saving screenings without Planned Parenthood and their affordable health care services.” -Erica T.

You can make a difference by including Planned Parenthood of Northern New England in your will or other estate plans. To learn more, please contact Ellen Gitomer, Major and Planned Giving Officer, at 1-800-622-4122 or ellen.gitomer@ppnne.org.

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