

SUMMER
2010

GET connected

RESTRICTIVE LAWS PASSED THIS YEAR AND PENDING BILLS

Law barring abortions from 20 weeks of pregnancy based on the assertion of fetal pain.

Law requiring women having abortions be screened for mental health issues.

Bill forcing women to get and view ultrasounds prior to an abortion and be given a detailed explanation of it, even if she wishes otherwise.

Is New York Next?

Protecting the Health and Safety of the Women of New York

Across the country, we've seen outrageously invasive and restrictive bills become law. As New Yorkers, have we been lulled into a place of complacency and safety thinking, "These things would never happen here"? Could they?

Let's not find out. The Reproductive Health Act will ensure that women in New York are able to make the decision that is right for themselves and their loved ones. Specifically, the Act would:

- **Ensure that a woman will be able to have an abortion if her health is endangered.**
NYS law does not contain an exception to protect a woman should the pregnancy pose a risk to her health.
- **Regulate abortion care in public health law rather than in the criminal code.**
As a safe, legal medical procedure, abortion should be regulated under public health law, not in the penal code where it has been since before 1970.
- **Guarantee everyone the right to use or refuse contraception.**
This will prevent any mandatory imposition of contraception on women of New York by regulation or judicial ruling.

In light of increasing state and federal attacks on the rights of individuals to make difficult and personal health care decisions, we must pass the Reproductive Health Act. If the Act is not passed, New York's law will be insufficient to protect a woman's health. **Please help us pass the Reproductive Health Act by visiting www.womenshealthmattersny.org/learn.**

Pleased to Be Pregnant?

Most Teens Don't Want to Become a Statistic

A new CDC study released in May reported that 40% of teens ages 15 to 19 have had sex at least once. 14% of girls and 18% of boys say they would be a "little pleased" or "very pleased" if this resulted in a pregnancy. The study also states that a growing number of teens say they use the rhythm method for birth control.

While these results are disheartening, Planned Parenthood knows the difference evidence-based, age-appropriate reproductive education makes. **Before becoming a Safe or Sorry (SOS) peer educator, Maria*** stated, "**My mother and sister were both teen moms and I don't want to be.**" Recently we had great success in reaching new audiences through education outreach programs in Port Jervis and Middletown schools where teen pregnancy rates are

especially high. Our SOS peer educators in all four counties connect with their peers about condom use, safe-sex and pregnancy prevention. In April we instituted a Teen Clinic in Middletown, open every Thursday, to provide health services and education specific to teens.

With the help of supporters like you, we are providing more comprehensive programs, reaching more teens in more communities, and educating more parents about the importance of factual and realistic information. If you or someone you know would like **to get more involved**—participate or host a parent-child workshop or have Planned Parenthood in your local school—please **contact our Outreach Coordinator at (845) 838-1200, ext. 103.**

*Name has been changed to protect privacy.

Volunteering Here, There and Everywhere

- Six of our peer educators hosted a Teen Testing and Information Fair at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. They created presentation boards with information about sexually transmitted infections, teen pregnancy and peer pressure. They also had a condom demo station that went along with the testing.
- Four Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley volunteers reached for their phones to make hundreds of calls to pro-choice supporters in Montana, urging them to “decline to sign” a petition sponsored by the Montana Pro-Life Coalition. The petition defines life as beginning at fertilization and grants a fertilized egg due process rights that are separate from those of the pregnant woman.
- Longtime supporter and Planned Parenthood Board member Amy Sherman traveled to Guatemala through the Glens Falls Medical Mission. As an All Terrain Volunteer, Amy helped provide up to 700 patients per day with critical medical care. The women’s clinic, housed in a local church compound, provides services ranging from birth control to prenatal care; post-partum care to infections. Ms. Sherman says of her experience, “It really puts into perspective all that we have in the United States. A 41 year old woman with eight children smiled ear to ear when she received a pair of socks—the first ever in her life.”

For more information about volunteering with Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley, please contact humanresources.ppmhv@ppmhv.org or (845) 471-1530 ext. 101.

SPRING INTO event season



Spring kicked off the Planned Parenthood event season. 200 party-goers revved up for the **May 7th Celebrate 76** event held at Locust Grove.



Supporters and art enthusiasts turned out for the **Annual Benefit in Warwick, NY** on May 22. All enjoyed the beautiful farm and bid on art donated by local artists.



On June 5th, guests were given a **hard hat tour** of our “under construction” Kingston Health Center space. Guests enjoyed Hudson Valley Hops and delicious hors d’oeuvres.

Hard Hat Committee members Roz Balkin (l), Barbara Sarah (center r) and Patricia Mitchell (r) with Ruth-Ellen Blodgett, Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley's President and CEO. Meanwhile volunteers Liza Norman and Laura Wilensky and staff member RonDeena Ross have fun with caution tape as they set up for the tour.

For more information about upcoming events, please visit www.ppmhv.org/events

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 **Planned Parenthood**
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