

Spring/Summer 2011

PPHS Overcomes Unprecedented Legislative Attacks

At Planned Parenthood Health Systems (PPHS), pink is the color of victory. Across our affiliate, pink t-shirts and placards, pink banners mounted on our health centers, a giant pink bus, and pink postcards to members of Congress helped to secure public funding for Planned Parenthood. Thanks to Board members, staff, donors and advocates, PPHS patients living below the poverty line will not be denied preventive healthcare services.

Leaders in Congress had threatened to shut down the federal government unless Planned Parenthood was banned from receiving any federal funding. Such a ban would deny low-income women and men access to our preventive services, including breast and cervical cancer screenings, immunizations, contraceptive services, and

treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. After the House of Representatives voted to cut funding, thousands of our supporters urged their U.S. Senators to “Stand with Planned Parenthood.” They wrote letters to the editor, cheered at rallies and met with their members of Congress. Many proudly wore pink.

After months of intense pressure, the Senate voted 58-42 not to defund Planned Parenthood. Our most vulnerable patients would not be denied preventive reproductive healthcare.

Planned Parenthood’s opponents are now increasing their attacks at the federal and state levels. Yet, our loyal supporters have the tenacity and courage to stand with us. We are profoundly grateful for their passion and good works.



Charlottesville (VA): More than 100 demonstrate support for PPHS.

Roll Call on April Senate Vote to Deny Funding for Planned Parenthood:

Sen. Richard Burr (NC)YES
Sen. Kay Hagan (NC).....**NO!**
Sen. Jim DeMint (SC)YES
Sen. Lindsey Graham (SC) ...YES
Sen. Joe Manchin (WV).....**NO!**
Sen. Jay Rockefeller (WV)**NO!**
Sen. Mark Warner (VA)**NO!**
Sen. Jim Webb (VA)**NO!**



Hundreds of advocates join in our many North Carolina rallies.



Charleston (WV): Over 100 supporters stage rally.

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Planned Parenthood Health Systems is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating in four states and headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Our organization is an accredited affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the world's largest and most trusted voluntary reproductive healthcare organization.

Visit PPHS online or follow us on
Twitter and Facebook.

Message from the CEO

Instead of expressing my growing concern over stepped-up legislative attacks on Planned Parenthood, my message to our supporters is one of praise for a dear friend, trusted advisor and superb senior staff member of Planned Parenthood. Alice Alexander, Vice President for Development, is leaving our affiliate after 6½ years of service. Her legacy and her many accomplishments will endure for many years to come.



Walter Klausmeier, PPFA President **Cecile Richards** and **Alice Alexander**

as a manager of many staff in multiple sites.

We have already initiated a national search for Alice's successor and I hope to introduce our next Vice President for Development later this year. In the interim, I have named Vice President David Nova to oversee the work of the Development Department. David has more than 20 years of experience with Planned Parenthood and is a former affiliate CEO.

Alice presided over the Development Department during an unprecedented period of organizational growth and vitality. I know I speak for every member of our staff and Board of Directors in expressing our deepest gratitude for Alice's excellent service to our affiliate and to the Planned Parenthood mission.

National Leadership

During Planned Parenthood's 2011 National Conference in Washington, DC, medical staff from across the country paid tribute to Sara Naff-Mlo, PPHS Vice President for Medical Services. For over a decade, Sara has held leadership positions with Planned Parenthood's National Patient Services Council. She was named to the Council's Steering Committee in 2000



Sara Naff-Mlo (left) with fellow staffer **Myranda Broyles-Lewis** at a DC rally in April.

and was elected Secretary in 2003. From 2007 to 2011 she served multiple terms as its National Chair and has been instrumental in the advancement of Planned Parenthood's medical services throughout the country. Congratulations, Sara!

Much More than Sex Education

For our education clients, information about anatomy and contraception is not nearly enough. “It’s about healthy, loving relationships,” says Birnettiah Killens, PPHS Community Health Educator based in Charlotte. “In most cases, teaching respect, trust and empowerment is critical to ensuring that teens and young adults avoid unhealthy sexual encounters.”

Birnettiah is one of a team of Community Health Educators operating throughout our service area. All of them teach clients how to foster and maintain healthy relationships – not only with partners, but also with family and friends. “Our life-skills workshops are very interactive. PPHS Educators talk with teens, not at them. We also challenge them to look within. In order to have a healthy relationship with anyone, they must first have a healthy relationship with themselves.”

Birnettiah recently demonstrated her expertise during workshops for over 200 teenage girls at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte (NC).

She provided concrete examples of healthy and unhealthy relationships. She helped teens recognize the importance of finding dating partners who complement their own values and personalities. Moreover, the teens learned to ensure that respect is present during interactions between themselves and their dating partner, especially for potential sexual encounters.

At PPHS, we do more than prevent pregnancy and disease. It’s about keeping girls safe...,” says Birnettiah. “And, when they’re ready, it’s about becoming good parents.”



Birnettiah Killens emphasizing respect during one of her life-skills workshops.



Young clients participate in a PPHS Education workshop at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.



Each spring, PPHS participates in the nationwide GYT: Get Yourself Talking, Get Yourself Tested campaign and each year our efforts exceed expectation.

The campaign is a partnership among Planned Parenthood, MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation and others to reduce the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases through education, testing and treatment. Half of all sexually active young people in our four-state service area contract a sexually transmitted disease (STD) by age 25. South Carolina has the 3rd highest rates in the nation for both Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. (North Carolina is ranked 5th for Gonorrhea.

Virginia is ranked 12th for HIV.)

For our 2011 GYT campaign, the Center for Disease Detection provided over 500 free tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. We also received more than 700 free HIV tests thanks to the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Just in the month of April we were able to conduct over 1,500 free STD tests to our uninsured clients. (We also provided free testing to patients with health insurance who were averse to filing claims for reasons of privacy.)

Combined with our Education outreach during the campaign, the impact of GYT for our male and female clients has again been dramatic. With the momentum from this year’s successes, we anticipate having an even greater impact in 2012

Celebrating 50 Years in Columbia, SC



One of the earliest photos from a Planned Parenthood organizing meeting in Columbia, SC.

On June 26, 1961, Reverend J. Kenneth Morris invited “a group of seven public-spirited Columbians” to meet at the home of Mrs. W. Bedford Moore, Jr. in order to learn about Planned Parenthood. Dr. John M. Preston, Director of the Richland County Health Department, was present and approved of the establishment of a Planned Parenthood organization in Columbia. Also present was Dr. Manly E. Hutchinson, a prominent OB/GYN physician and past president of the South Carolina OB/GYN Society.

A second Planned Parenthood exploratory meeting was held three months later on Wednesday, September 27th in the library of the Richland County Health Department. From those humble beginnings, the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in South Carolina was established 50 years ago.

On September 23rd of this year, our full Board of Directors and our senior staff will join local Columbia supporters in celebrating the many individuals and families who furthered Planned Parenthood’s mission in South Carolina for the past 50 years.

Please mark your calendars for this important milestone. Details to follow.

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