



NEWS SOURCE

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Northern New England

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LETTER FROM PPNNE CEO, MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends,

I'm glad to have this opportunity to update you on our efforts to redefine PPNNE's role in health care. We are transforming into the provider that patients choose because of the expert health care we provide and the difference we make in our communities, not simply because we provide services regardless of patients' ability to pay. Your support makes this transformation possible and ensures that everyone has access to confidential, non-judgmental sexual and reproductive health services.

By now we've all heard numerous stories about the disaster turned success of the roll out of the Affordable



Care Act. I'm proud to say PPNNE is playing an important role in helping people obtain health care coverage. In addition to providing comprehensive reproductive and preventive health care to so many young, low income and vulnerable people in our communities, PPNNE is expanding access to health care through patient outreach and insurance enrollment efforts. PPNNE Navigators are providing direct assistance to individuals and families and conducting outreach in local communities to educate the population about coverage options. Across northern New England, we helped nearly 4,000 people get covered in the first enrollment period.

Recently, a PPNNE Navigator in New Hampshire helped an older couple whose premium was unmanageable. They were scared and frustrated. By the end of the conversation, the gentleman complimented our staff member for being knowledgeable and going the extra mile, and said that the appointment had changed everything for them. He asked her if he could send

everyone he knew to her for assistance. This is the kind of difference we strive to make in people's lives every day.

While health care reform brings the promise of health care to more people than ever before, we know that significant gaps in access will remain due to economic conditions, geographic disparities, racial and ethnic inequalities and immigration status. We will continue to champion those needs and vigorously defend the right to health care without barriers.

Patients see PPNNE as a respected and trusted provider. Our confidential, compassionate, non-judgmental care is a vital resource to the women, men, and teens in our area. Our role connecting patients, especially young patients, to the broader health care system is critical to the long-term health of northern New Englanders. The trust our patients have in us is a testament to the quality of care we provide and enables us to play an important

role in improving the health of people in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. With your support and partnership, more than 42,000 people will get the care they need.

Warmly,



Meagan Gallagher
President/CEO

If you are not already receiving emails from PPNNE, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. We'll share upcoming events, newsworthy articles, ways to get involved, and health tips.

To sign up, email
info@ppnne.org

DONOR PROFILE: JAN EAKINS

Jan Eakins stopped in to our Portland health center and dropped off a donation in response to the protestors outside. Then the next day, she dropped off another check. Imagine our surprise when the very next week, she did it again, and for many weeks after. Her generosity was an inspiration. Here is her story:



It's been more than thirty years since I first visited a Planned Parenthood health center. I had just moved to Seattle and didn't yet have a doctor when I came down with an infection that needed immediate attention. A friend suggested I go to Planned Parenthood. The staff was so knowledgeable and caring that for years I returned there for my annual checkups.

As my income increased, I began to make a donation to Planned Parenthood each year, my first charitable giving, and have continued to make donations to Planned Parenthood no matter where I lived. Just before moving to Portland, ME full-time, my husband and I lived in upstate New York where we supported the annual Planned Parenthood Polar Plunge in the tiny hamlet of Essex, a wonderful community event.

Even there, protestors crashed the party, providing a lesson in how to avoid the interaction they seemed to crave.

After I read about the Friday and Saturday anti-abortion protests at PPNNE on Congress Street, in Portland, ME, I stopped for a look. I was astonished to see how close to the entrance the protestors stood and how much of the sidewalk they took up. I could see patients and passersby walking in the street to avoid contact. My training as a journalist gives me a feisty respect for freedom of speech under the First Amendment and I believe protest should be heard and protected. Yet, I also know there are limits. To me, it appeared the protestors had arranged themselves along Congress Street not just to protest, but to intimidate.

It made me angry to think of young women like me having to walk a gauntlet of protestors to obtain basic medical care so I wanted to show my support. Writing one check didn't seem sufficient. I decided to carry a small check to the PPNNE health center every Friday and Saturday morning I could and I did so for weeks. As I passed the protestors, I waved my check and told them I was making a donation because of them.

I'm sharing my story now because I hope others will join me. Although the protests have been moved across the street thanks to a patient safety zone, I know that delivering a small check to PPNNE in person on Friday or Saturday morning is a great way to start the day. -Jan

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MAINE

On April 16th, the Maine Legislature gave final approval to LD 1247, the Maine Women's Health Initiative, sending the bill to Governor LePage for his signature. The Governor will either take a step forward and advance the health of women or veto the bill. If he chooses to veto the bill, LD 1247 will be reconsidered by the Maine Legislature at the beginning of May. A veto override requires a vote of support by two thirds of both the House and Senate.

The Women's Health Initiative would provide access to critical disease prevention and essential health services including lifesaving cancer screenings; annual exams; birth control; prevention; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; breast health care; and Pap tests for adults who fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which

is less than \$23,340 per year for a single person.

Nearly 30% of low income women say that they try to save money by skipping pills or forgoing contraception for a month. They often can't afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with longer-lasting, more effective methods of birth control, which only compounds their risk of unintended pregnancy. This is why LD 1247 is so important to Maine women.

Thirty other states have adopted similar measures and have realized significant cost savings in their Medicaid programs through the reduction of unintended pregnancies. In Maine, taxpayers spend approximately \$11 million on unintended pregnancies every year. If LD 1247 is enacted, Maine can both reduce the number of unintended

pregnancies and save up to \$3.3 million annually.

While Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and its partners have worked incredibly hard to advance this essential health policy, securing strong bipartisan support, the simple fact is that its future rests in the hands of one man.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, CONTINUED

NEW HAMPSHIRE

**FUNDING
RESTORED!**

On January 29th, the New Hampshire Executive Council restored state funding to PPNNE in a unanimous (4-0) vote. This contract came two and a half years after three Executive Councilors led a political crusade to defund PPNNE. All of the Councilors involved in the original defund effort no longer hold Executive Council seats.

The new contract awarded PPNNE more than \$700,000 in General Funds to provide low and no cost health services to nearly 14,000 individuals through our health centers in Claremont, Derry, Exeter, Keene, Manchester and West Lebanon.

“We’ve come full circle after a long and challenging journey,” stated Jennifer Frizzell, PPNNE Senior Policy Advisor. “It began in June of 2011, when three ideologically-driven Councilors denied health care funding for women and families in nearly half of the regions of the state.”

Thanks to Governor Hassan and the new leadership on the Executive Council, the contract will allow PPNNE to provide cost-effective, essential health care services like cancer screenings, breast exams, access to birth control, and sexual health education.

VERMONT

On January 23rd, more than 50 PPNNE supporters attended the 41st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade event at the State House in Montpelier. Joined by Governor Shumlin and key legislators, the event honored the anniversary through story-telling and by lobbying Legislators on key bills.

On March 24th, in front of PPNNE staff, board members, donors and activists, Governor Shumlin signed into law a bill that repealed outdated and unconstitutional abortion statutes. The bill passed the Vermont House and Senate unanimously, and is a great win for our advocacy work.

“With this bill, Vermont is showing the rest of the country that we can move forward rather than backward when it comes to reproductive rights,” remarked Governor Shumlin. “It’s unfortunate that other states are turning back the clock

“With this bill, Vermont is showing the rest of the country that we can move forward rather than backward when it comes to reproductive rights,”

Governor Shumlin.

on the issue. But here in Vermont, a woman’s right to make her own health care decisions will not be taken away.”

As the legislative year wraps up, we’re working hard in Montpelier to protect access to essential health care, provide funding for Medicaid reimbursement, and move forward comprehensive chemical reform.



Governor Shumlin signs the Abortion Decriminalization bill into law.

Photo courtesy of Stewart Ledbetter, WPTZ.

NAVIGATOR UPDATE:

Through our Navigator grant, PPNNE educated thousands of Vermonters about their health insurance options on the state exchange. Our enrollment specialists enrolled people of all ages in plans that fit their needs and budgets.

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR: PPNNE TRUSTEE, MARGOT MILLIKEN

We are proud to recognize PPNNE Trustee, Margot Milliken who was honored as the Philanthropist of the Year at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Annual Meeting in Portland, ME on November 7, 2013. Margot Milliken has been a supporter of Planned Parenthood since the 1970's, and in 1988 she helped create The Maine Women's Fund.

Here is an excerpt from her acceptance remarks:

“Thank you to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and the Maine Women's Fund for nominating me.

My joy and purpose and effectiveness as a philanthropist comes when I



support organizations whose missions match my passion and purpose. In my case, that is the empowerment of women and girls. I want women and

girls to have opportunities and access to what they need to live fulfilling lives.

I came of age when Roe v. Wade legalized abortion. I became pregnant at the age of 20 when I was in college and not ready to become a parent. I had a legal abortion. Being able to control my fertility AND choose the right time for me to start a family, opened my eyes to the absolute necessity for women to make their own reproductive health decisions.

Today, with so many threats to legal abortion as well as access to birth control, working with Planned Parenthood is how I connect with my passion.”

We are so grateful for your partnership, Margot.

PEER EDUCATION COMING TO MANCHESTER, NH

We are excited to announce our Peer Education program is expanding into Manchester, New Hampshire. Like the programs in Burlington and South Burlington, Vermont, our Peer Education program in Manchester will fulfill a commitment to provide educational programs that effectively engage youth and enhance understanding of human sexuality.

Manchester was selected as the next region to roll out Peer Education because it has the highest teen birth rate in the state of New Hampshire—34.8 births per 1000 females ages 15 to 19. The large population and the number of community organizations with which PPNNE can partner also made it ideal.

Jaime Chabot will spearhead the

program and serve as our Peer Education Coordinator. Jaime joined PPNNE in October, 2013 as a New Hampshire Navigator. She helped PPNNE patients, as well as the general public, find and enroll in affordable health insurance plans.

Jaime's passion and commitment to peer education developed during college when she worked for a national non-profit, The Peer Health Exchange. This organization aims to empower high school students with the knowledge and confidence to make healthy life choices by training college volunteers to teach a comprehensive health curriculum.

From now until the start of the school year, Jaime will conduct a community needs assessment, make connections with partner organizations and



Peer Educator Jessie talks to students at Burlington High School about sexual health. The same program will be replicated in Manchester, beginning in the fall.

individuals, and build support for the program. Adapting learnings from our experiences in Burlington, Jaime has hit the ground running and looks forward to recruiting our first cohort of Manchester peer educators in the fall.

Contact Jaime at education@ppnne.org

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: JOANNE LEMAY-GREEN

Position: Lead Health Care Associate **Health Center:** Rutland, Vermont

Why do you work for Planned Parenthood?

I have been with PPNNE for nearly 17 years. I started at our St. Johnsbury Health Center and two years later I transferred down to Rutland. I first applied at Planned Parenthood because I needed a job and knew Planned Parenthood had been there for me while I was in college. It didn't take me long to fall in love with our mission.

What is the most gratifying thing about your job?

I enjoy making people feel comfortable during their visit and getting them to smile. I find it gratifying to help the men and women we serve. I also enjoy the hugs and thank you's I receive from our patients. I love that I get to work with amazing women who have served as such great mentors to me over the years.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

Coffee. Lately what has been getting me out of bed is my new adoptive grand cat, Hugo (pictured above). As soon as the alarm goes off, Hugo is hopping onto my bed for morning snuggles.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun I like to take walks, read, swim, and perform karaoke. Most importantly, I finally started scrap-booking my children's baby books. They are almost 21 and 22.



Rutland Health Center in 2013: **2,371** patients **3,584** visits **\$120,055** in discounted or free health care.

OUR PATIENTS NEED US — AND WE NEED YOU

“I was absolutely shocked to find a dozen protestors split in two groups, lining the entrance to the clinic. They were waving posters and yelling, and for a moment, I even considered skipping my appointment. I was worried about my safety — I’ve heard about the crazy things these people do. The irony is that I was going to get birth control pills to prevent having to make the choice about an abortion in the first place.”

-Marie, age 27, PPNNE patient

Our patients shouldn’t have to wade through a sea of protestors waging a campaign of harassment and intimidation to get vital health services, but at some of our health centers they do. It happens nearly every day.

But here’s the other side of the story: despite some of the challenges, our patients tell us year after year that they love the terrific care and the kindness and compassion they get at our health centers.

We are so proud of the work we do. We touch people’s lives in a profound way. Last year PPNNE made a real difference in the lives of more than 42,000 people and in their communities across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

That’s why we’re asking you to take a moment to make a contribution and renew your support for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England today. It couldn’t be more important.

Care. No matter what. That’s the solemn pledge Planned Parenthood makes to those who depend on us to be there for them. It’s a pledge we’ll keep together. Thank you.

Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.ppnne.org/donate to make your tax deductible contribution today.

Calling All Cars!

Did you know that PPNNE staff drive hundreds of thousands of miles each year to provide services across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont? If you’re thinking of selling or trading in your car, why not donate it to PPNNE? Passing on your gently used, low-mileage car will provide you with a tax deduction and help us save precious resources. To learn more about how to donate your car, e-mail supportus@ppnne.org or call us at 1-800-287-8188 ext 9704.

Contributors

Nick Carter
Public Affairs Coordinator, VT

Nicole Clegg
Director of Public Affairs, ME

Meagan Gallagher
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