

Fall/Winter 2011

PPHS Commemorates 50 Years in South Carolina

Planned Parenthood had much to celebrate during our 50th Anniversary Gala in Columbia, South Carolina this past September. It's been half a century since a small group of intrepid individuals met together on June 26, 1961 to form a new Planned Parenthood chapter. Back then, access to care was severely limited. Birth control pills were not yet available to physicians or families. Indeed, contraceptives were illegal in most states – even for married couples.

Our staff and volunteers in South Carolina have witnessed many positive social changes and medical advances over

five decades. In the 1960s, our education programs and medical services provided women and families with their first opportunities to receive family planning services and sexual health information. In the throes of the Civil Rights movement, our diverse staff worked side-by-side to serve all patients – regardless of race. As political opposition to our mission grew in recent decades, Planned Parenthood initiated comprehensive public policy programs to ensure access to care.

The 50th Gala was an opportunity to recount our storied past and reflect upon the generations we have benefited. Sarah

Weddington, who argued the *Roe v. Wade* decision before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972, served as our iconic keynote speaker. She reminded us that today's families continue to face challenges. "Legislatures in South Carolina and around the nation want to limit access."

The aspirations of our courageous founders have been realized, yet the vital need for Planned Parenthood continues. Fifty years later, it is the responsibility of all of us to sustain Planned Parenthood's legacy for the next generation and the generations to follow.



Above: Members of our Columbia medical staff proudly continue our 50-year legacy.

Left: PPHS President/CEO **Walter Klausmeier**, supporter **Anita Grossman**, event sponsor and former Board member **George Johnson** and **Sarah Weddington** during the 50th Anniversary Gala.

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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.

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Message from the CEO

It is with pride and pleasure that I introduce our contributors and supporters to Joyce Mitchell-Antoine, Vice President for Development. Joyce has accepted the enormous responsibility for raising millions of dollars each year to further our comprehensive education services, our vital public policy efforts and our subsidized medical care for families. I have every confidence that she will serve Planned Parenthood Health Systems with distinction.

I first met Joyce during her 12-year tenure as the Chief Development Officer for Planned Parenthood of Central North

Carolina. More recently, she served as the Vice President for Development of WomanCare Global, LLC. Her fundraising prowess is nationally regarded. Yet, it's her straightforward and undaunted approach to her craft that most impresses me.

Today, Planned Parenthood is confronting innumerable challenges. Our client base has grown more impoverished. Our opponents have grown more ruthless in their efforts to deny both women and men access to healthcare and honest information. Every challenge we face comes with a financial cost. Fortunately, the talents and dedication of our Development staff are only surpassed by the generosity and commitment of you, our donors and supporters. Please join me in welcoming Joyce Mitchell-Antoine to our Planned Parenthood family.



Joyce Mitchell-Antoine and Walter Klausmeier

Serving More West Virginia Clients

Our Vienna, West Virginia health center is our smallest... but, perhaps, not for long. Patient visits for women, men and teens seeking preventive reproductive healthcare in Vienna has risen up to 80% this year. New revenue sources now enable us to subsidize much of the cost of medical care, even for out-of-work families with no income. Our dedicated medical staff is working harder than ever – including West Virginia Health Center Manager Shannon Smith (pictured at right).



In North Carolina: Initial Courtroom Victories

Since the 2010 elections, the North Carolina legislature has aggressively sought to undermine access to reproductive healthcare. In response, Planned Parenthood has gone to court to protect the healthcare needs of women and men.

This summer, the legislature voted to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving public funds – including federal funding to provide preventive healthcare for indigent women and men. The ban not only creates undue hardships for our patients, but is also an unconstitutional abuse of legislative authority that singles out Planned Parenthood for punishment. We filed suit in U.S. District Court and succeeded in temporarily blocking the provision. As a result, we continue to provide birth control and life-saving cancer screenings to patients who could not otherwise afford care.



During an October press conference in Greensboro, the media seeks lawsuit details from PPHS as well as attorneys from the ACLU and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Planned Parenthood (along with the ACLU and the Center for Reproductive Rights) also filed suit against North Carolina's so-called "Woman's Right to Know" law. This demeaning and intrusive law requires medical providers to show each woman the ultrasound images and describe them in detail at least four hours before an abortion, even when a woman objects. This fall, we obtained a preliminary injunction that blocks

enforcement of the most intrusive aspects of the law.

Both legal rulings grant only temporary relief for patients. When these cases go to trial early next year, Planned Parenthood will seek permanent injunctions. We will also redouble our lobbying efforts to dissuade the passage of other onerous and unconstitutional legislative measures during North Carolina's 2012 legislative session.

In Virginia: Keeping Choice Possible

In the 1990s, Virginia legislators concluded that if they couldn't make abortion illegal, they might be able to make it impossible. Their strategy: pass a law forcing every woman's health center to meet the stringent standards of outpatient hospitals. (The architectural standards alone make this a nearly impossible feat.) This year, their strategy became law.

Fortunately, PPHS took their threats seriously. We fought to delay passage of the measure for 15 years. In the interim, we proactively built health centers in Roanoke and Charlottesville to the architectural standards of outpatient hospitals. Our most generous donors contributed \$4 million to ensure women's healthcare services would be protected... no matter what.

These standards far exceed what is necessary to safely provide first-trimester abortion care. Nevertheless, the state's newest regulatory requirements are so formidable that PPHS will need to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for building renovations.

Alarming, most of the other providers in Virginia are now confronting the impossible. Independent observers estimate that 17 or 18 of the 22 women's health centers in Virginia will be forced



Our 11,000-square-foot Roanoke Health Center during construction in 1999.

to close by 2013. Access to reproductive healthcare will become dangerously tenuous – and Planned Parenthood's responsibility for ensuring safe and affordable healthcare will become all the more vital.

Education: Serving Clients with Disabilities

For women and men with disabilities, the risks and challenges of sexuality can be acute. Men with physical disabilities face added challenges in developing healthy, intimate partnerships. Women with intellectual or developmental disabilities are far more likely to suffer sexual abuse and assault and are far less likely to receive preventive breast and cervical cancer screenings. Many of these clients struggle to develop effective social skills or to fully grasp the consequences of their actions. As our staff has grown more adept at effectively serving clients with disabilities, requests for such education programming have significantly increased.

In August, PPHS Community Health Educators from across our service area obtained technical training from the North Carolina Division of Disability and Health to better serve clients with disabilities, especially intellectual or developmental disabilities. We practiced advanced techniques and teaching strategies that involve concrete (rather than conceptual) learning, role modeling exercises and plenty of repetition. Our Educators are now better equipped to help clients manage anxiety during health care appointments, avoid sexual exploitation and live healthier, safer lives.



PPHS Educators provide customized trainings to clients with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Want to ensure a lasting legacy that continues your support of the mission to which you've dedicated a lifetime?

It's easy...Make a bequest by leaving Planned Parenthood Health Systems in your will or trust. For more information, contact Joyce Mitchell-Antoine, Vice President for Development, at joyce.mitchell.antoine@pphsinc.org or (919) 833-7534, ext 6138.

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