

A message from the CEO

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Fall 2009 marked the first anniversary of the new peer education program **teenR.E.A.C.H.**

(Real Education About Choices for our Health) at Planned Parenthood of Kentucky (PPKY).

Over the past year, awareness of this program has grown throughout the community. Today teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators are sought by community and faith based groups to speak at gatherings of teens, parents and other adults.

This vital community program is entirely funded through dona-

tions and private foundation grants. Another source of funding for all PPKY education programs is the annual fundraisers held in Lexington and Louisville.

On October 16, PPKY held the inaugural **Birds and Bees Bash**. More than 200 guests joined **honorary co-chairs Linda and David Hawpe**, staff and board members as we celebrated the accomplishments of teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators.

We are grateful to all who support PPKY education programs

by their event sponsorship, donation of raffle or auction items, purchase of event or raffle tickets, and/or live auction bids. We are especially thankful for all who worked behind the scenes to make the Birds and Bees Bash a success!



Shirley L. Jones
PhD, RNC, FAAN

Youth highlighted at annual events

Because PPKY's education and community outreach work is supported entirely through grants and private donations, youth benefitting from these programs were highlighted at PPKY's annual events, *Happy Hour for Choice* and the *Birds and Bees Bash*.

At *Happy Hour for Choice* on May 15, University of Kentucky VOX (Voices for Planned Parent-

hood) members Stephanie Hopkins and Alecia Fields spoke to Lexington supporters about their campus organizing and advocacy work. "UK VOX has provided an outlet for college students

to engage in productive conversations about reproductive

health," said Hopkins. "We equip students with the knowledge they need to become leaders and activists in state, national, and international health efforts."

In October, high school students from PPKY's teenR.E.A.C.H. peer education program

addressed more than 200 community supporters at the *Birds and Bees Bash* in Louisville. In addition to information about PPKY's mission and services presented by event speakers,

the teens shared with the audience their personal experiences educating their peers about healthy relationships and sexual health, as well as their motivation to become peer educators.

Said Eriauna Stratton, senior at Louisville Male High School: "I became a peer educator because at the time I started, I had 3 friends who were either pregnant or had a baby, and I was only 16. I wanted to do what I could to prevent any more of my friends from having kids before they were ready."



Above: Peer educators (from left) Kyle Edwards, Eriauna Stratton, Yovanna Jones, Sarah Walters and Lyla Wasz-Piper at the *Birds and Bees Bash*. *Top right:* UK VOX member Stephanie Hopkins and her mother, Karen Hopkins, at *Happy Hour for Choice*.

teenR.E.A.C.H. comes to Lexington!



“teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators and UK VOX members applied what they had learned over the summer to launch local campaigns as part of PPFa's national Week of Action.”

PPKY is proud to announce that the teenR.E.A.C.H. (Real Education About Choices for our Health) peer education program expanded to Lexington in fall 2009.

teenR.E.A.C.H. trains high school students to educate their peers about a variety of topics related to reproductive and sexual health.

In October, 7 teens (including 2 teen mothers) from 3 local high schools began a 30-hour initial training that covers anatomy and reproduction, healthy relationships, sexuality, safer sex and sexual rights and responsibilities.

After completion of the initial training, youth will begin educating other central Ken-

tucky youth through formal presentations and everyday conversation.

If you're interested in scheduling Lexington peer educators to speak to your school, faith organization or community group, please contact Jennifer Johnson at 859-252-8494 ext. 21 or Jennifer.johnson@ppfa.org.

Summer training leads to fall organizing

PPKY's outreach and advocacy work extended far beyond its health centers this summer. In July, staff, teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators and college students from the University of Kentucky VOX chapter ventured to the nation's capital for the first ever *Planned Parenthood Youth Policy and Organizing Conference*. PPKY youth were invited to attend along with 200 other high school and college students from across the United States. A grant from Planned Parenthood Federation of America covered all of the attendees' expenses.

The conference focused on teaching participants how to organize, educate and advocate effectively for issues like comprehensive sex education and access to health care. After attending workshops, youth put their lessons into action by meeting with U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler and Sarah Adland from U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth's office.

In addition to advocacy work at the national level, PPKY also participated in statewide grassroots organizing. In August, peer educators and staff attended the inaugural Ken-

tucky Social Forum. Held at Berea College, the Social Forum brought together more than 40 organizations and 250 individuals from across the Commonwealth. Using a human rights framework, participants worked together to address issues of injustice and oppression, including racism, sexism and homophobia.

teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators facilitated two workshops at the Social Forum. “Let's Talk about SEX(uality)”, was a youth-led panel discussion to an audience of more than 30. Peer educators and other youth shared their experiences and opinions about talking with youth and adults about sex and sexuality. PPKY peer educators also presented a teens-only workshop on safer sex. A special thanks to Kentucky Health Justice Network, which provided funds that made PPKY's participation possible.

At the onset of the new school year, teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators and UK VOX members applied what they learned



Youth from across the country gathered at the Capitol during Planned Parenthood's first ever Youth Policy and Organizing Conference in July 2009.

over the summer to launch local campaigns as part of Planned Parenthood's national Week of Action. Activities included phone banking in support of health care reform, distributing condoms and information on UK's campus and in Lexington, collecting more than 150 signatures in support of funding comprehensive sex education and collecting dozens of video testimonials on the importance of providing comprehensive sex education in schools.

PPKY reaches out to Spanish-speaking community

In recent years, Kentucky has experienced significant growth in its Spanish-speaking population. In order to best serve this growing community, PPKY has undertaken numerous efforts to expand clinical and educational services.

Beginning in 2009, PPKY conducted multiple educational presentations in Spanish, including workshops on cervical health and contraceptive methods in partnership with the Kentucky Health Justice Network. PPKY staff also implemented a professional development workshop for a group of Lexington-based *promotoras* (community health care liaisons).

Additionally, PPKY has reached out to Spanish-language media in order to raise

awareness about reproductive health and PPKY services. In fact, PPKY was featured on *La Pantera*, a central Kentucky Spanish radio station, to discuss how teens and their families can improve communication about sex and sexuality. PPKY was also invited to author articles in the Lexington Spanish-language newspaper *La Voz* on a variety of topics related to reproductive health.

Over the past year, PPKY has served an increasing number of Spanish-speaking patients in its health centers. In fact, in 2008 PPKY increased the number of self-identified Latinos served by 300 percent. To accommodate limited English patients, bilingual staff, who have been trained in medical interpretation, are available at

both centers.

In addition to daily operations at the health center, PPKY also hosted a free HIV screening day at the Louisville

Health Center in conjunction with National Latino AIDS

Awareness Day in October. Fifteen individuals received health center tours and free testing as part of the event.



Latino Outreach Intern Sandra Vera welcomes community participants to a PPKY education program in fall 2009.

News and upcoming events

Accolades and Accomplishments

PPKY President and CEO Shirley Jones was appointed to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America's National Medical Committee.

Ashley Miller, lead Nurse Practitioner at the Louisville Health Center, was named Miss Black Ohio USA 2010. Ashley's platform is HIV/AIDS awareness. Congratulations, Ashley!

PPKY is happy to announce Rick Robbins joined PPKY as Director of Finance. Welcome, Rick!

Community Outreach

In September 2009, PPKY was one of the sponsors for the Women's Summit hosted by the Kentucky Commission on Women, Office of the Governor. Participation in the event helped PPKY to connect with organizations serving women and families from across the Commonwealth.

PPKY also served as a co-sponsor for the following community events:

- ACLU of Kentucky Bill of Rights Dinner
- Reproductive Freedom Project Fall Freedom Fest

- Family Scholar House annual luncheon
-Kentucky Health Justice Network presentation "Contaminated without Consent", about the effects of pollution on reproductive health.

Upcoming Events

Teen Talk

First Tuesday of the month, 4-5 pm
Louisville Health Center
Community teens are invited to meet with teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educators and PPKY staff for informal discussions about healthy relationships, sexuality, safer sex and more!

Let's Talk: Parent-teen communication workshop

December 9 (middle school)
December 16 (high school)
6:30-9 pm
Louisville Health Center

teenR.E.A.C.H. training

Know a high school student interested in becoming a teenR.E.A.C.H. peer educator? PPKY is now recruiting teens for a January 2010 peer education training in Louisville. For more information, contact Morgan Taliaferro at

502-584-2471 ext. 1235 or morgan.taliaferro@ppfa.org.

RFP Advocacy Day in Frankfort

On February 4, 2010, the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project will host its annual rally day to advocate for improved reproductive health and rights in Kentucky. Join RFP, PPKY and others in the Capitol Rotunda at noon to make your voice heard!

Get Involved

We need your help! PPKY is actively seeking community supporters in both Louisville and Lexington to serve on our event planning committee.

PPKY's Board of Directors is seeking community members interested in learning more about working with PPKY as a Director on the Board.

Call us at 1-800-230-PLAN or go to www.ppsy.org to find current information on upcoming events and other ways you can get involved with PPKY!



**Planned Parenthood®
of Kentucky**

Your partner. Your friend. Your plan.

Bluegrass Health Center

508 W. 2nd St.

Lexington, KY 40508

859-252-8494

Louisville Health Center

1025 S. 2nd St.

Louisville, KY 40203

502-584-2473

Okolona Office

4211 Trio Ave.

Louisville, KY 40219

502-966-5510

EKU Office

Student Health, 521 Lancaster Ave.

Richmond, KY 40475

859-252-8494

Request an appointment online at

www.ppsy.org



Tell us your story: Real stories from real patients

Beginning in February 2009, PPKY health centers have asked patients to “tell us your story” using waiting room comment cards and journals placed in exam rooms.

Since then, patients have shared stories about what Planned Parenthood has meant to them over the year and stories about what brought them to the health center that day. PPKY patients from every background and across the Commonwealth have shared their stories of health, family and personal choice. Here are some of their words:

When I was in college, you took care of me. Now that I am a successful working mother of two boys, I still support you and come to you for my exams. You all are wonderful!

This place is so important for women-it is a place to come where you are safe to tell the truth without judgment. Many times there are very complicated stories that can bring us here. I’m just glad you were here when I needed a safe place to go!

I came to PPKY for a pregnancy test and as I thought . . . it’s positive! Yay me! I’m sooo excited! Thank you!

Your staff is so welcoming and makes really uncomfortable situations a lot less intimidating. You have made me see that sometimes I can stop caring for everyone else and take care of me! Thank you!

I had been going through some GYN problems and was embarrassed to be seen by my regular doctor. I came here ashamed, but now I am leaving here confident because now I know my condition is treatable. I’m impressed about the confidentiality and respect you receive here.

Thanks Planned Parenthood for allowing me to receive affordable GYN services! I’ve been several places only to find that I couldn’t afford the birth control I desired after my initial visit. Here I was well respected and greeted/served by cheerful staff... Thanks again!

I am from Africa. I was unable to have the services provided for women in this country over there (Africa) and I am very lucky to be one of the women who (has) been helped.

I have not yet been at my job long enough to have insurance so Planned Parenthood provided a place I could receive appropriate treatment at an affordable cost. I have received care here sporadically since I was in college and it’s always been a good experience.

Just wanted to let the staff know that you have been wonderful. I found out that I was pregnant with my daughter at this location. She will be 18 in July.

Me being a young teen mother and not enough money to pay for my healthcare PPKY was there ... If it wasn’t for PPKY I wouldn’t be healthy. Thank you and best luck to keep helping people like me.