

WINTER  
2011

GET **connected**

Planned Parenthood®  
Mid-Hudson Valley

## IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

January 9, 2012  
*Annual Day of Action*  
Albany, NY

January 22, 2012  
*Roe v. Wade Anniversary*

February 13-17, 2012  
*National Condom Week*

For more information  
about upcoming events,  
please visit  
[www.ppmhv.org/events](http://www.ppmhv.org/events)

## Message from the CEO



Dear Friends,

Among the many friends of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley is a group who go the extra mile on our behalf. For some that means significant financial contributions. For others it means coordinating or hosting our wonderful fundraising parties. For others it means getting on a bus at 3am to travel to Washington, DC as an advocate to lobby our Congressional representatives. And for SOME – it means all of the above plus much more. We count you among our special friends.

As you know, this has been a very challenging year for Planned Parenthood. We have become the target of attacks from extremists who would see funding denied to all family planning agencies nationwide. Most recently we fought off an attack that would have made many forms of birth control illegal. We have weathered public lies about our services; some of my CEO colleagues have been physically attacked; and

many Planned Parenthoods across the country have had to close health centers when denied funding from their states. But I am a true believer that adversity can bring forth opportunities.

In my many years as a Planned Parenthood CEO I've never been asked to address as many groups, to answer as many questions about Planned Parenthood, had as many opinion letters accepted by the media, or had such thoughtful interviews with the editorial boards of some of our local newspapers. Many of our supporters have opened their homes, invited several of their friends, and asked me to talk about our services, the implications of current legislation, and the future of women's health services both locally and nationally. Therefore, I see the negative attacks as opening the eyes and minds of many of our constituents who never really gave much thought to the role Planned Parenthood plays in their local community.

It's going to be another tough year. We will prevail again – and continue our quest to educate more and more people about the vital work we do and the basic health care services we provide to our most vulnerable residents.

So as we end 2011, I want to extend my personal thanks to you and ask that, as we work to preserve reproductive freedom as well as the health care services we provide, we can continue to count on you to stand with Planned Parenthood in the coming year.

My best to you during this holiday season.

*Ruth-ellen Blodgett*

Ruth-ellen Blodgett  
President and CEO



# Stand with Planned Parenthood on January 9, 2012



We are very excited about our annual Day of Action on January 9, 2012. With a significant increase of anti-women's health legislators and rhetoric this past year, we need to display the strength of the pro-women's health movement here in New York State. January 9th is the first day of the legislative session and it is a chance to show our representatives that reproductive rights matter to New Yorkers. It is a unique opportunity to talk face-to-face with elected officials and re-introduce Planned Parenthood and the priorities of those who care about comprehensive health care.

**If you would like information about transportation, more information about the day or to register please email [publicaffairs@ppmhv.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppmhv.org) by December 21, 2011.**

## Planned Parenthood Peer Educators Tour Colleges

In November, Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley's Community Education staff continued a five-year tradition as they brought a group of 23 Peer Educators on a tour of local colleges. Teens from Beacon, Kingston, Middletown, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie participated in the tour.



Visits to SUNY New Paltz, Marist College and Dutchess Community College gave the students a chance to consider a wider array of opportunities for their post-graduation plans. While the excursion was light-hearted, it filled a serious void in the information about post high school opportunities available to students. As many schools are cutting guidance positions due to budget concerns, many teens are left with no one to talk with about college options. Planned Parenthood offers support they simply may not find elsewhere.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed dinner at Osho, another new experience for many of the teens. "We try to take them out and make it a good time, too," Bethany Hamilton, CAPP Program Coordinator says, acknowledging that part of a comprehensive education lies beyond the world of academia. Ultimately, however, the future of programs like these is undetermined, and as Bethany remarks, "we need funding to continue to have these types of programs."

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know** that you can help Planned Parenthood right in your own home? Help Planned Parenthood spread the word in your community by hosting a Conversations House Party! It's easy, fun and a great way to introduce new people to what we're all about. Contact Tricia O'Malley, Director of Development & Marketing at **845-838-1200, ext 116** or [tricia.omalley@ppmhv.org](mailto:tricia.omalley@ppmhv.org) for more information.

## Connect With Us in the Community!

December 17	It Takes a Village, Perkins Community Ctr., Middletown	February 7	Insights Infertility Support Group, Poughkeepsie
January 3	Insights Infertility Support Group, Poughkeepsie	February 8	LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Kingston
January 6	Healthy Teens Movie Night, Beacon	February 14	National Condom Week HIV Testing, Local Colleges
January 6	Newburgh Street Outreach, NFA	February 21	LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Poughkeepsie
January 9	Annual Day of Action, Albany	March 6	Insights Infertility Support Group, Poughkeepsie
January 11	LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Kingston	March 7	HIV Testing, Dutchess County Community College
January 17	LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Poughkeepsie	March 14	HIV Testing, Sullivan County Community College

### CONNECT WITH US!



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on  *(Action Fund)*

Visit us at [www.ppmhv.org](http://www.ppmhv.org)



Planned Parenthood®  
Mid-Hudson Valley

178 Church Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
(845) 471-1530