

The Newsletter of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England  
*Serving Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont*

## REMEMBERING DAVID WAGNER

### David E. Wagner

April 27, 1938–May 15, 2007

*“Concern for children in particular, as well as for people in general, has brought me to this area of work. No one should have a child unless she wants to.”*

— David Wagner

David Wagner was a true visionary and founding father of Planned Parenthood of Vermont (PPV), which later became Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE). As a volunteer in 1969, he spearheaded the process that helped PPV get its first grant funding, changing the organization from a volunteer-based education and referral agency to a provider of family planning services. Later that year, he became PPV's first executive director. In those early days, he had ambitious goals: to establish a vast network of fully staffed health centers across the region, organize a base of supporters in communities to promote the mission, and build a foundation for the eventual provision of abortion care. David's tenacity, passion, and foresight were instrumental in making PPNNE the vibrant organization it is today.

In 1977, David's lifelong interest in learning and teaching led him to consulting, and he spent the next 30 years teaching countless individuals and organizations (including PPNNE and other Planned Parenthood affiliates) about diversity issues, organizational development, communication skills, and conflict resolution. In the words of his wife Allie Stickney, “His love of sharing what he learned and exchanging ideas influenced the lives of friends, colleagues, and family.”

David's death is especially poignant for PPNNE because he leaves behind another former executive director, his wife Allie Stickney. David and Allie met through Planned Parenthood. She too began as a volunteer, and their relationship and careers developed from there.

David worked all over the world and influenced many. But because of his dedication to the principle that every individual should have the ability to choose when and whether to be a parent, he felt that one of his most important contributions was helping to establish PPNNE. We're so fortunate that ours was a cause he championed and we will truly miss him.

## NEW FUND HONORS FOUNDER

David Wagner had an abiding interest in encouraging new generations of young people to continue the mission of Planned Parenthood. In memory of David, who passed away on May 15, we've established “The David Wagner Fund” to further the involvement of young people in PPNNE's work. We will also honor David with the “David Wagner Young Leader of the Year Award.” This award will be given to a young staff member or volunteer who embodies David's vision to strengthen and grow our work and this cause.

Look for the link on our homepage to learn more about this new fund, or call our program support department at 1-800-287-8188, ext. 8410.

ALLIE STICKNEY

GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PPNNE'S SERVICES AND LOCATIONS AT  
**WWW.PPNNE.ORG** OR **CALL 1-800-230-PLAN**  
TO REACH THE HEALTH CENTER NEAREST YOU.

# Short Takes

## Fashion with Passion

Coco Magoo is a Maine-based online T-shirt company founded on the principle of supporting worthy causes. (Their motto is “Fashion Tees with Passion.”) After searching for the perfect group to support, owners Talya Corsetti and Lisa Bassett decided on PPNNE. Now, \$5 from the sale of every tee will be donated to PPNNE. Check out [www.cocomagoo.com](http://www.cocomagoo.com).

## Don't Wait. Vaccinate!

Many high schools and colleges are now recommending that students get the HPV vaccine along with the usual list (including immunizations for hepatitis B, which PPNNE also offers). The Gardasil® HPV vaccine is now available at PPNNE health centers, and we're encouraging girls and young women — along with their parents — to learn more about the human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer. Get more information at [www.ppnne.org/hpv](http://www.ppnne.org/hpv) or call 1-800-230-PLAN for the PPNNE health center nearest you.

## Mark Your Calendars

Make plans to travel to Concord (NH) on December 4, to hear Pamela Cox Otto, Ph.D., talk about generational differences and how they affect our attitudes, beliefs, and approaches to learning. She'll also reveal some secrets for how to relate to one another despite these differences. Learn more about this and other upcoming workshops at [www.ppnne.org/trainings](http://www.ppnne.org/trainings).



PPNNE 2005

PPNNE President Nancy Mosher speaking in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

## Choice Remarks

Summer is often a time of celebration, and I am pleased to report that after nearly four years of litigation, New Hampshire finally repealed its parental notification law. It's certainly been a long road to victory!

One of our stops along the way included the U.S. Supreme Court, which in November 2005 returned the case to the federal district court to determine whether the legislature intended to pass a law that didn't include a health exception. Before the Court acted, both houses of the New Hampshire legislature took up — and passed! — a bill to repeal the law altogether. Governor Lynch signed the new bill into law on June 29, making New Hampshire the first state in the country to repeal a parental notification law. (Had the original measure been upheld, it would have been the strictest parental notification law in the country.)

Having shepherded the New Hampshire lawsuit to the Supreme Court and back, I have thought a lot about the challenges parents and teens face as the adolescent years unfold. In our sex-saturated culture, parents have every reason to be

concerned. Teens don't have it easy in this age of constant media pressure to be sexually active and PPNNE is committed to helping them navigate these years as safely as they can.

With this goal in mind, we've recently begun offering more comprehensive teen health assessments at our health centers. Since innovations in women's health make yearly pelvic exams less necessary for most young women, we can spend

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**Teens don't have it easy in this age of constant media pressure to be sexually active and PPNNE is committed to helping them navigate these years as safely as they can.**

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more time talking, teaching, and developing the foundation for an ongoing relationship. We're using the American Academy of Pediatrics's guidelines for taking extensive medical and social histories. By

getting to know the issues in each teen's life more comprehensively, we will hopefully begin an extended partnership that helps them get the health resources they need throughout adolescence — and beyond. The HPV vaccine, which is now available at all of our health centers, is another opportunity for parents to bring their middle-school-age daughters to PPNNE for conversation and vaccination. These visits help promote ongoing dialogues about sexual health, and help familiarize both parents and daughters with PPNNE's preventive services.

With your support, we'll continue to advocate for public policy that guarantees access to reproductive health care and protects women's health and safety. We'll also continue to expand our services to better meet the needs of our patients — and to make sure that our organization stays relevant in a rapidly changing world.

*Nancy*

Nancy Mosher  
President/CEO



MARY PLACEY

## PPNNE GETS "MALLED"

Thanks to some strategic bidding at a recent silent auction, PPNNE was able to lease a "visual display kiosk" at the Burlington Town Center from July 12 to August 12. We used the kiosk to promote awareness of HPV and the Gardasil® vaccine, PPNNE's other services, and resources for Vermont parents.

# FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN A POST ABORTION BAN ERA

Imagine a physician preparing to perform an abortion. She knows that every woman's body is unique. She has reviewed her patient's chart. She was trained to use (and has judiciously used) two methods numerous times. She believes, in this case, that one method is safer for her patient. She is afraid, in fact, that using the other procedure could jeopardize her patient's health and future fertility. She explains this to her patient, yet also has to explain that she is barred from using the safer method. Not to mention that using it could result in criminal or civil charges and possibly the loss of her medical license. It doesn't matter what the patient would prefer — or what the physician believes is best.

As illogical as it might seem, this scenario is entirely possible in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, which upheld the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, and in so doing, seriously endangered the health and lives of women. Over the last 30 years, the Court has always ruled in favor of women's health when weighing the constitutionality of abortion restrictions. But the *Gonzales* ruling changes this precedent.

In this post-*Gonzales* era, abortion regulations are not necessarily required to contain a health exception, as long as Congress or another legislative (not *medical*) body concludes that a procedure is "never necessary to preserve the health of the mother." In addition, there is a new focus on the rights of the general public to express anti-choice sentiment — an influence the Supreme Court suggests is equal to, or at least logically linked with, a woman's right to choose what is best for her health.

Because of *Gonzales*, physicians performing abortions must now be constantly mindful of the criminal charges that might follow their actions. And the relationship between doctor and patient may be forever changed because the

By Scott King



private realm of the operating room or doctor's office must now accommodate not only the doctor's best medical judgment and the patient's best interests, but also the government and public opinion.

What does this mean for the future of reproductive health? At best, it means that the future is unpredictable, because the breadth of the ban invites all kinds of interference into the doctor-patient relationship. It opens the floodgates for state and federal politicians to severely limit access to abortion and reproductive health care, and allows politicians' personal morals to supersede and, in fact, *direct* patient care, a trend that permits further erosion of a woman's right to control her most personal decisions. Unquestionably, it means that the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are not as stable or permanent as once believed.

As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said in her dissent, "the Act, and the Court's defense of it, cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by this Court — and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives."

Abortion services have never been without controversy. But before the *Gonzales* ruling, the physician and patient were able to enter a relationship, however brief, that

was based on providing care in a manner safest for each patient's current health and future fertility. Now that the Supreme Court has opened the door to government intrusion, we are facing a new era where politicians, not doctors, are being entrusted to make health care decisions for us all.

*Scott is a student at Vermont Law School. He contributed this article as part of his recent internship at PPNNE.*

## Don't Just Stand There — Stand Up for Choice

Join the Planned Parenthood Action Network and reach decision makers with the click of a button. Visit [www.ppnne.org/grassroots](http://www.ppnne.org/grassroots).

## Short Takes

### Teen Birthrate Hits Record Low

According to new data from the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of teens having babies is at a record low of about 40 births for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19 — down 35 percent from its peak in 1999. Ranking first, second, and fourth respectively, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine are among the states with the lowest teenage birthrates — about half the national average. While this report (that also shows that teens are increasingly using condoms) indicates we're making progress, there's still a long way to go to keep teens safe and healthy. Teenagers need to know how to protect themselves against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. PPNNE has begun piloting new health screenings for girls ages 12–17, which include comprehensive age- and "strength-based" assessments that help us identify risky behavior and offer appropriate resources. Stay tuned for more information.

## CALLING ALL PARENTS

Want to create an open, lasting dialogue about issues related to sexuality with your kids? Not sure how to get the conversation started? Know a group of parents who share your concerns? Host a parent house party! You supply the house and the parents and a PPNNE educator will bring the knowledge, support, and tips for creating the kind of open communication that will benefit you and your children. Don't have time to host a party? Stop by the University Mall in South Burlington, VT, on Saturday, September 29, for the 4th Annual Chittenden County Parent Expo. This free event, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a one-stop place to find information about services for parents and kids in the greater Burlington area. E-mail [education@ppnne.org](mailto:education@ppnne.org) or call 1-800-488-9638 for more information.

# NEWS <sup>07</sup> SOURCE

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## ABOUT US...

We welcome your ideas, contributions,  
and questions. Please write to us at:

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**Visit us on the Web:**  
**[www.ppnne.org](http://www.ppnne.org)**

**Personal Care. Personal Choices.**

## GIVING CHOICES

*“With your help, I am now resolved to  
make more informed decisions and to  
consider options and consequences, not  
just with my sexual behavior but with  
all aspects of my life.”*

This excerpt from one of our waiting room  
journals is a great example of the difference  
PPNNE makes in the lives of the thousands  
of women, men, and teens we serve each year  
— with your support.

For more than 40 years, PPNNE has been  
working to make sure people have a place to turn  
for reproductive health care and family planning  
services. Whether we’re fighting for reproductive  
justice; providing honest factual information to  
teens, parents, and youth-serving professionals;  
or caring for patients like the one above; PPNNE  
is always there for those who need us. Please  
send a gift in the enclosed envelope — or make a  
secure online donation at [www.ppnne.org](http://www.ppnne.org) — so  
that we can continue to help people make healthy  
and informed decisions.



PPFA 2006

## Kind Thanks...

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in-kind donations:

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