

Fall/Winter 2012

## PPHS Action Fund champions women's health care



Actress **Aisha Tyler** and Newark (NJ) Mayor **Cory Booker** at Planned Parenthood's Women are Watching rally at the Democratic National Convention.

After a full year of planning and preparation, the Planned Parenthood Health Systems Action Fund served as the host Planned Parenthood organization during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Four busloads of Planned Parenthood volunteers from North and South Carolina and hundreds of volunteers from across the country ensured that women's health care remained relevant and important in the minds of Democratic leaders and convention delegates.

PPHS Action Fund staff provided critical logistical support throughout the four-day convention. Supporters and volunteers clad in pink t-shirts generated enormous energy and enthusiasm for protecting reproductive

health care choices for women, men and families. By the end of the Convention, Planned Parenthood had signed up 6,397 new advocates.

The economy was the primary focus of the 2012 elections. Yet, the stark dichotomy between the candidates and their respective parties over women's issues has made Planned Parenthood especially relevant in this year's elections. President Obama and many newly elected members of Congress prevailed in the election because of their strong positions on women's health care.

The PPHS Action Fund, which is a separate advocacy organization from our affiliate, endorsed President Obama during the election.



Joined by her husband, **Andy Yasinsac**, PPHS Board member **Joanne Day** (Columbia, SC) was one of many volunteer leaders lending support in Charlotte.

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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 Walt

The outstanding performance of the PPHS Action Fund Board, staff and volunteers during the Democratic National Convention is another proud moment in a long sequence of milestones for our affiliate. Being able to support the extraordinary efforts of Cecile Richards and the entire Planned Parenthood federation on such an important national stage was inspirational. For me, it reaffirms the devotion I've held towards our mission ever since I first began working for Planned Parenthood in 1975.

This past February I received word that I had been selected for a five-month sabbatical award from the prestigious Z Smith Reynolds Foundation. With the support of the PPHS Board of Directors, I have accepted this award and intend to begin my first-ever sabbatical in April 2013.

The PPHS Board has unanimously approved Bonnie Smith to serve as Interim CEO while I'm away. Bonnie is a former hospital administrator and former PPHS Board Chair who currently conducts Development activities in Asheville for our affiliate. I can think of no person more ably suited to lead our affiliate during my sabbatical. Supporting her leadership will be our veteran management staff and Board of Directors.

The timing of my absence comes after knowing and assessing the results of the November elections. I will come back to Planned Parenthood long before the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is fully implemented in January 2014.

I am very grateful to the leadership of both the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation and the PPHS Board and staff for this opportunity. I will return to our affiliate with renewed energy to ensure the health and wellbeing of all we serve.

Walter Klausmeier, *President/CEO*



Walter Klausmeier

## Ensuring Safety



Planned Parenthood health centers face unique safety and security challenges. All employees receive various trainings to ensure the wellbeing of our clients and staff. Above, Health Center Assistant Sofia Martinez receives professional instruction on fire containment.

# National Recognition for PPHS Education



**Sarah Brown**, CEO, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, and **David Nova**, PPHS Director of Strategic Initiatives, at the Capitol Hill press briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building.

PPHS's teen pregnancy prevention efforts were among six success stories recently highlighted in a 17-page national report, *Teen Pregnancy & High School Dropout: What Communities Can Do To Address These Issues*. According to the report, released during a Capitol Hill press briefing by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, "nearly one-third of teen girls who have dropped out of high school cite early pregnancy or parenthood as a key reason."

The report credits our Planned Parenthood affiliate with developing a model for effectively soliciting input from parents and engaging public school administrators in order to lower teen pregnancy rates and improve graduation rates. These efforts have resulting in PPHS educators providing professional training sessions for nearly 100 elementary, middle and high school health educators over the past three years.

## Virginia health centers facing steep challenges

During September and October, our Blacksburg, Charlottesville and Roanoke health centers passed state inspection under a new Virginia law targeting reproductive healthcare providers. The law pertains to any medical facility providing more than four abortions per month. Under the law, our three health centers (and 17 others across the state) have less than two years to comply with onerous and unnecessary architectural requirements. These requirements threaten to shut down most centers.

Last April, the Virginia Board of Health voted to waive the architectural requirements for existing facilities since the architectural enhancement held no bearing on patient safety. In September, the Board reversed its decision after unprecedented political pressuring. Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a strong abortion opponent, even threatened that Board members could be denied state legal counsel and may have to pay for their own legal expenses if they did not



Our oversized 16-foot by 18-foot procedure room in Roanoke meets the newly imposed architectural requirements for reproductive health centers in Virginia.

reverse their April vote.

Unless we are able to undo this recent decision, Virginia health centers will need to establish hospital-wide corridors, oversized procedure rooms and a host of other needless architectural changes. Fortunately, our Roanoke and Charlottesville centers were constructed to meet most of these requirements in anticipation of the passage of this law. Yet, even these facilities will face undue expenses that could increase patient costs and limit access to care.

## Our Legacy, Your Legacy

Planned Parenthood's values are your values. We share your commitment to ensuring that all children are wanted and cared for. By including Planned Parenthood Health Systems in your estate plans, you extend our mission for generations to come.

A planned gift can be as simple as a one sentence amendment to your will. It can also be a charitable remainder trust that provides benefits to you until your passing. For more information, visit our website: [www.pphsinc.org/plannedgiving](http://www.pphsinc.org/plannedgiving).

# Health care trumps politics in North Carolina



Asheville Nurse Midwife **Blair Tiller** is one of many PPHS clinicians who are now able to care for more families in poverty.

On October 1st, PPHS began offering federally subsidized family planning services in four of our six North Carolina health centers: Asheville, Greensboro, Wilmington and Winston-Salem. As a result, many more women and families that live in poverty now have greater access to preventive contraceptive care, cancer screenings and disease treatment. This victory for our patients is a triumph of public health over partisan politics.

Last year, the North Carolina legislature voted to ban any Planned Parenthood organizations from receiving Title X family planning dollars. They did so despite our sterling history of providing affordable, professional family planning care.

This year, PPHS submitted a competitive grant directly to the federal government for Title X funding in North Carolina. In every locality that we sought funding, the federal government found that Planned Parenthood was best able to meet the reproductive health care needs of women, men and families.

PPHS will always place the welfare of patients ahead of political gamesmanship. Our mission, first and foremost, is to provide care — no matter what.

HEALTH + KNOWLEDGE + OPPORTUNITY

[www.pphs.org](http://www.pphs.org)

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