



NEWS SOURCE

2014 / FALL

 **Planned
Parenthood**[®]
of Northern New England

www.ppnne.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from PPNNE CEO, Meagan Gallagher 1-2
- Supreme Court Decisions Hurt Women -Hobby Lobby & Buffer Zone Updates 3-4
- Volunteer Profile: Mary Campbell 5
- PPNNE By The Numbers: Volunteer Program 6
- Patient Story: A Breast Cancer Diagnosis 7
- Cakes With A Cause 8
- Employee Profile: Debby Pereira 9
- Your Donation Has Met Its Match 10

LETTER FROM PPNNE PRESIDENT & CEO,

Dear Friends,

Since our last edition of News Source, you've no doubt heard about two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that affect women's reproductive health care. The Hobby Lobby ruling gave employers the right to block women's access to birth control based on their own personal religious views and the Massachusetts buffer zone decision removed protections to prevent patient harassment at health centers. This latter decision directly affects the buffer zones we had created in Burlington, VT, Portland, ME, and in New Hampshire. You'll read more about these decisions on pages 3 and 4.



The Supreme Court decisions are stark reminders that our country does not yet accept that women have the right to affordable birth

MEAGAN GALLAGHER

control, never mind the right to access abortion services, without harassment and intimidation. These decisions underscore the importance of the work we do to elevate women's health within the ever-changing health care landscape.

In partnership with you, our supporters, we are creating a world where women's health is an integrated part of health care; a health care culture that recognizes women's unique needs and values providers, like PPNNE, who provide the expert care to meet these needs.

In this edition of News Source, you'll also read a story about a PPNNE patient who

recently came to us for life-saving care. My colleagues share these stories regularly, to remind us all of the real difference we're making and how fortunate we all feel to be part of this organization. It's my honor to share them with you, so you can know the difference your support makes in real lives, right in your community.

This is what it looks like when women's health is put first. Together, we can save more lives and improve women's health. Thank you for being part of this vital work.

Warmly,



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SUPREME COURT DECISIONS HURT WOMEN

Over the summer, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down two decisions that had far-reaching and dangerous consequences for women and for our patients.

HOBBY LOBBY DECISION

Consequences: Bosses at Hobby Lobby and other businesses can now interfere with their employees' access to birth control. We know firsthand that access to birth control is both a health care and an economic concern for women. 99% of sexually active women in the U.S. have used birth control at some point in their lives.

Next steps: The Obama administration has proposed new rules that would help clean up the mess made by the U.S. Supreme Court. Women employed by companies that refuse to cover birth control will be able to obtain coverage directly from their insurer. But this proposal still needs to go before the Department of Health and Human Services, which is expected to

happen in November.

BUFFER ZONE DECISION

Background: After increasing harassment and intimidation at three of our health centers, PPNNE worked with local city officials and legislators to establish patient safety zones based on a Massachusetts law. This MA law created a 35-foot zone in which no protests or demonstrations were permitted during times when the health centers provided abortion care.

Decision: The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the buffer zone. They stated that states and cities will have to look to other ways to disperse a crowd when public order or safety is threatened.

Consequences: Since the ruling, all of the buffer zones around PPNNE health

centers have been struck down, forcing our patients and staff to once again run a gauntlet of fear and intimidation while seeking health care services.

Update on each zone at the time of this writing:

Burlington, VT – The Burlington City Council amended the buffer zone and struck the provision that prohibited congregating, patrolling, picketing or demonstrating within 35 feet of a reproductive health care facility. The section which prohibits obstructing, detaining, hindering, impeding, or blocking a person's entry to or exit from such a facility remains in place and continues to be enforced. PPNNE is working closely with the Burlington City Council Ordinance Committee to strike a new compromise that balances free speech and



patient safety. We have proposed an eight foot personal bubble zone and a clearer definition of harassment. Councilors were consistent in saying the buffer zone is a priority. Additional meetings are expected.

Portland, ME – The U.S. Supreme Court

decision, as well as a local lawsuit against the City of Portland, led the City Council to repeal the buffer zone ordinance in July. A number of Councilors voiced their strong support for the ordinance and their desire to find alternative measures. We also continue to explore other

legislation that would protect our patients and staff from protestor harassment.

New Hampshire – Less than two weeks after Governor Hassan signed the patient safety zone bill into law, the U.S. Supreme Court decision hobbled our plan for enforcement to protect patients at our Manchester health center. In July, a group of protestors filed a pre-emptive challenge in federal court saying the law is unconstitutional. New Hampshire's Attorney General is defending the case and has concluded the NH buffer zone law has some limited ability to be distinguished from the U.S. Supreme Court decision. We are working to find ways for the law to be enforced in a constitutional manner, and are evaluating how the upcoming legislative session could play into all of this. Stay tuned.

What Can You Do?

Join the PPNNE Activist network to keep up on the latest news and activities by going to <http://bit.ly/ppnneact>

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MARY CAMPBELL

Earlier this year, we were incredibly fortunate to have Mary Campbell contact us about volunteering. She began as a Greeter – safely escorting our patients past protestors – at our Burlington, VT health center. A few months later, she also began volunteering in our Development Department. A few weeks ago, she was honored with the Building Block award from the United Way of Chittenden County for her work with PPNNE. Mary has made a huge impact on patients and staff with her incredibly positive attitude, her sense of humor, and the countless hours she’s generously donated to PPNNE.

Q. What made you want to volunteer for PPNNE?

A. I wanted to finally walk the walk that I had been talking the talk about for years. I had some free time and I looked around for volunteer opportunities, talked to some friends, and in a true ‘aha!’ moment, visited Planned Parenthood and applied. Through the years, Planned Parenthood has been a consistent, non-judgmental health care provider for me and friends. I also knew I could help support folks who might be in scary and possibly lonely times in their lives. And I live for neon pink reflective vests.

Q. As a greeter, what has it been like outside the health center since the buffer zone was struck down? Have these changes affected our patients?

A. When I started greeting in February 2014, the buffer zone was 35 feet long, and had clear boundaries denoted by paint on the sidewalk. As a greeter, I felt secure having the visible line of where protestors could and couldn’t go, and the rules were clear about when to intervene.

Now that there is no buffer zone, and every week is a new experience. Protestors station themselves directly in front of the building. They hold up signs and they want to be visible to the people in the waiting



room. The patients are feeling harassed by the protestors

Q. Any other thoughts?

A. I applaud PPNNE. I applaud the tireless women of the Health Center on St. Paul Street. Imagine what they have seen, who they have educated, the lifetime of smart choices they have helped instill. They come to work every day with determination, humor, and an instinct to help. They are my heroes.

PPNNE BY THE NUMBERS: VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Our work would not be possible without the dedication, energy, and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Our group of over 150 interns and volunteers assist in nearly every department including: Development, Public Affairs, Community Outreach & Education, Patient Accounts, Marketing, Information Technology, and of course, in our health centers. They ensure patients and staff can safely access health centers without harassment or intimidation; build community support for PPNNE; maintain databases and identify areas for workflow

improvement—no task is ever too big or too small for our volunteers.

Here are some statistics to explain just how vital they are to our organization:

Just halfway through the year, volunteers and interns had logged



And provided a savings of

\$62,396.45



The number of people who have inquired about volunteering has increased **180%** compared to the same time period in 2013.



YOU CAN HELP TOO!

To see all open positions, visit www.ppnne.org and click on "volunteer." You can also write to our Volunteer Coordinator, Paige via email at Paige.Feeser@ppnne.org.

PATIENT STORY: MARY'S* BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS



When Mary came into a PPNNE center in New Hampshire, she was in extreme pain. The small lump she noticed the year before had gone untreated. With no insurance, she couldn't afford a doctor's visit, let alone the tests she needed for a complete diagnosis.

By the time Mary got to us, she was desperate and suffering. With no time to lose, PPNNE's medical director arranged for radiology testing immediately.

The diagnosis was breast cancer. With the help of PPNNE, Mary is getting the care, treatment, and support she needs to battle her disease. She is in the fight of her life, but with most of her expenses covered through PPNNE's Breast Health Grant, Mary doesn't have to worry about affording the help she needs to survive. Instead, she can focus on getting well.

Mary's story is just one of many examples of the lifesaving care PPNNE provides and that your support makes possible.

Each year thousands of women, men and teens throughout New England look to us

as their provider of choice to keep them healthy and informed.

Each day our focus is on caring for those who walk through the doors of one of our 21 health centers. Last year we served over 42,000 people. Some who had nowhere else to turn; many who chose us for our compassionate, expert staff who consistently receive a 98% patient satisfaction rating.

We're there for family planning, counseling and contraception, testing for STIs or safe and healthy pregnancy choices. Or like Mary, for life-saving cancer screening and treatment.

Your help makes all this— and more— possible. Thank you.

*name has been changed.

CAKES WITH A CAUSE

We were thrilled to meet several University of Vermont students who, earlier this year, came to our door with a generous donation from their program Cakes with a Cause.

Q. What is Cakes with a Cause?

A. Cakes with a Cause is a program that teaches its members both baking and decorating skills, as well as humanitarianism. For us, baking and community are our special interests that we have uniquely combined into one single program – Cakes with a Cause!

Q. What made you choose to donate to PPNNE?

A. I truly value and appreciate the work that Planned Parenthood does. Planned Parenthood has some of the most kind, caring, and friendly staff I have ever met. I can go to my doctor ten times a year, but they still can't remember any basic facts about me. When I go to Planned Parenthood for my yearly appointment, my doctor, who has met me only three times,

remembers my name, what college I go to, what my major is, and how long I've been dating my boyfriend. You make sexual health a normal and comfortable thing and work your hardest to ensure that people, particularly young women like me, are happy, healthy, and safe. I truly appreciate it.

Q. Tell us a little about yourselves:

A. Cora: I'm a senior at UVM majoring in Secondary English Education. I've been the Cakes with a Cause Program Director for three years and I absolutely love it.

Taylor: I'm a senior at UVM majoring in English and Studio Art with a minor in Art History. I've been a member of Cakes with a Cause for the past two years, this is my first year as a program director.



Cheyenne: I am a senior at UVM majoring in Human Development & Family Studies. This is my fourth year with Cakes with a Cause, my third year as a program director.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: DEBBY PEREIRA

Position: Lead Navigator Health Center: Burlington, Vermont

Why do you work for Planned Parenthood and how long have you been with us?

I've been with PPNNE since graduating from the University of Vermont eight years ago. My academic interests in school, coupled with a suggestion from one of my favorite college professors, led me to work at the Burlington, VT health center. I've had various roles during my time with PPNNE. The joy of living in beautiful Burlington and having great co-workers is a huge bonus, too.

Please explain your role at PPNNE:

I manage the Navigator program in Vermont. Navigators provide outreach and education to the public and to our patients about the Affordable Care Act, about Vermont Health Connect and provide in-person enrollment assistance. For over a year, we've done everything we could imagine to reach the public and inform them about their health insurance options. We've tabled at farmer's markets, festivals, and fairs, held workshops, contributed to panel discussions, and hosted enrollment events, just to name a few.

What is the most gratifying thing about your job?

Hearing from countless clients that I've made their experience with Vermont Health Connect "painless" is very gratifying. I also appreciate the freedom PPNNE gives me to be innovative. We have embarked on something historic in this country with the Affordable Care Act and I'm allowed to think outside the box in my work to get the word out.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to spend time with my favorite humans hiking, camping, and enjoying local cuisine. I also love to write, paint, draw, play with crafts, and do tech projects with fellow creatives.



Navigator Stats: **33,898** people reached since 2013; **284** in-person appointments since January 1st.

YOUR DONATION HAS MET ITS MATCH!

Rachel's yearly exam revealed a thyroid swelling on her neck. Andrea had no health insurance, and came to us for help with a painful urinary tract infection (UTI). Brian discovered a lump that he worried might be testicular cancer.*

Time after time we hear stories like these, followed by "Planned Parenthood of Northern New England was so kind and didn't judge me," "I will never forget how PPNNE supported me when I needed it most," and "My healthy life wouldn't have been possible without Planned Parenthood."

Today Rachel, Andrea, and Brian and others are celebrating lives that may have been much different were it not for PPNNE and your support. Please, take this opportunity to make your gift today.

Here's why this is the perfect time to support the work of PPNNE: **A group of generous supporters has challenged us to raise \$120,000 by November 15th.** They know how important this work is and want to inspire people just like you to join them.

Your gift, if received by November 15th, will be matched, dollar for dollar, and go even further to help the patients who rely on us.

For every Rachel, Andrea, and Brian there are hundreds more just like them seeking assistance. Please make your gift today (which will be matched!) and help us continue to provide these vital services in your community.

Your gift of	+Matching Gift	Provides
\$30	\$60	Two doses of emergency contraception
\$75	\$150	One-month of birth control pills for 6 women
\$200	\$400	Life saving pap smears for 6 women
\$300	\$600	UTI testing & treatment for 6 patients
\$500	\$1,000	Life saving colposcopy for 2 women

Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.ppnne.org/donate to make your tax deductible contribution today. *names have been changed.

Contributors

Nicole Clegg
VP for Public Policy, ME

Jennifer Frizzell
VP for Public Policy, NH

Meagan Gallagher
President & CEO

Jill Krowinski
VP of Education and VT Community Affairs, VT

Amy Lafayette
Manager of Marketing & Communications

Jennifer Powell
Director of the Annual Fund