

Fall 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England is excited to announce that we are now recruiting students for our Peer Education Program for high school youth at three schools this Fall: Burlington High School, South Burlington High School, and Champlain Valley Union High School. PPNNE's Peer Education program seeks to empower high school students with accurate, factual reproductive and sexual health knowledge to benefit themselves, their peers and the community. The program is in its third year at Burlington High School, second at South Burlington, and we are excited to welcome CVU this Fall.

We know that parents and schools are already working to educate young people about reproductive and sexual health. Common myths persist; this program will empower youth with the knowledge and skills to address these myths and misconceptions in spaces where adults rarely have access.

Vermont teens who took a Planned Parenthood survey do feel that their parents are approachable when they have questions; 43% of students in the survey said they would talk to a parent, second only after 54% who said they would ask their friends. Students are supportive of the program; when asked "If you knew a friend or classmate went through a training at Planned Parenthood where they learned about sexual and reproductive health, would you trust them to have good information?" 87% of students responded they would. The remaining 13% said "Maybe." We know that peer education is just as effective as education provided by adults; we also know that teens receive most of their information from other teens.

Volunteer students in the Peer Educator Program will receive specialized training in reproductive and sexual health to prepare them for their role as Peer Educators. Additionally, students will be able to engage in self-directed learning through opportunities to develop and deliver programs of their choosing, with guidance and support from PPNNE staff. This training will give participants the opportunity to practice empathy with others, to gain practical experience in the field of public health and health care advocacy, and to complete their annual volunteer hours requirement.

Permission must be given in order for an individual to participate and there will be a parent/guardian open house for participating students before training starts. Peer Educators must attend and successfully complete a training program scheduled to begin October 2014 which will be handled by PPNNE staff.

We are excited to begin this program and are happy to answer your questions. If your teen would like more information or an application, please contact us or visit [www.ppnne.org](http://www.ppnne.org) and click on Education & Training. We're also looking for parents who are interested in volunteering on our program Advisory Committee. Let us know if you're interested!

Sincerely,

Andrea Nicoletta

Peer Education Coordinator  
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