

Cecile Comes to Charlottesville!



Cecile Richards in Charlottesville

Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, addressed our donors and supporters in Charlottesville with all the energy and flair that we have come to expect from her. The September 21 fundraising luncheon was held at the Farmington Country Club to accommodate the large and enthusiastic crowd.

Cecile began her remarks by paying tribute to the tireless efforts of local volunteers, such as **Dr. Jim Turner** and his wife, **Alice**. She offered praise to Planned Parenthood Health Systems (PPHS) and the leadership of our President/CEO, **Walter Klausmeier**. She cited our affiliate's 10% growth in patient visits and noted that our affiliate posted a 100% increase in STD-testing during Planned Parenthood's "Get Yourself Tested" Campaign – more than any other affiliate in the nation.

Yet, most of her remarks focused on

positive and progressive change by and for women – young and old, both here and across the globe. Healthcare reform is the latest opportunity for change. Cecile indicated that healthcare reform legislation could serve to either advance medical care for women or else place it in further jeopardy.

Cecile was adamant that women can't be worse off after healthcare reform than before. She went on to describe the vast efforts of Planned Parenthood to ensure that all women will be able to get full reproductive healthcare from their provider of choice.

Following her presentation, Cecile had time to speak with our long-standing supporters and to meet with local staff. Cecile also toured our Charlottesville Reproductive Health and Education Center where the ideals she espoused are carried forth each day.



Dr. Jim Turner and Amanda Megargel. Cecile honored Jim as a Board member, donor, advocate, fundraiser, physician and friend.



Walt and Cecile with Charlottesville Board members Elizabeth Muse (left) and Al Stricker and Elizabeth Hacking (right).

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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.

Message from the CEO



Walter Klausmeier
PRESIDENT/CEO

I am so appreciative of Cecile Richards. She is wonderfully adept at addressing complex policy matters without losing sight of the essential role of Planned Parenthood – to serve women, men and families. Her talents were on display in Charlottesville where she spoke to more than 200 of our supporters and advocates.

Cecile speaks of healthcare reform from the context of the women, men and families that depend upon Planned Parenthood for expert medical care and honest information. She knows that our ideals aren't shaped by think tanks and theory. Our values and ideals are forged from the generations of patients and clients who have relied upon Planned Parenthood for preventive healthcare and education.

In the past year, patient visits at PPHS have jumped more than 10% among our 12 health centers. As families have lost jobs or been squeezed by the high cost of insurance, they turn to us for affordable, professional care. We are their safety net, especially in hard times. Under Cecile's leadership, our essential role as provider continues to grow.

Walter A. Klausmeier

Ensuring Women's Health

PPHS took advantage of Congress's August recess to press for healthcare reform that safeguards women's health. We attended numerous town hall meetings, met privately with members of Congress, submitted newspaper editorials, gave media interviews, and conducted phone banks and door-to-door canvassing. We also collected numerous patient testimonials attesting to the importance of women's healthcare.

Our bright pink t-shirts and placards

have been visible across our affiliate. (The accompanying photo was taken during a town hall event in Raleigh, NC featuring President Obama.)

Now that Congress is back in session, we have redoubled our efforts to ensure that reproductive healthcare is protected under healthcare reform. All the while we continue to provide affordable, professional healthcare to women and their families.



Capital Improvements Benefit Clients



Our newly renovated health center lab room in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Until July, our health center in Wilmington, NC could only accommodate medical personnel. Education staff were 'exiled' to rented office space across town. When the condominium adjoining the health center became available, PPHS seized the opportunity.

Purchasing the adjacent space does more than just reduce duplicative costs. "We now have medical staff working shoulder to shoulder with our educators," says Wilmington Health Center Manager **Leah Yetter**. "Integrating of our healthcare and

education services takes prevention to a whole new level!"

Our health center in Blacksburg, VA also experienced a bit of a renaissance. We renovated the center's waiting room to better accommodate patients and added new furnishings and equipment. The purchase of an ultrasound machine has enabled the Blacksburg Center to begin providing medication abortion. Blacksburg is the first of our seven non-surgical abortion centers to initiate medication abortion.

STD Education in South Carolina

South Carolina suffers some of the highest rates of sexually transmitted disease in the country. The state is 3rd in the nation for gonorrhea, 5th for Chlamydia, 12th for syphilis and 10th for AIDS.

This summer, PPHS and like-minded organizations launched a grassroots campaign to combat these preventable epidemics. Hundreds of our South Carolina advocates sent emails to members of the South Carolina Board of Education. We urged them to require the teaching of STD prevention in middle school, rather than delaying until high school.

The Board quickly responded by making STD-prevention education *mandatory* for public school students in grades 6, 7 and 8! Middle school students will now receive three separate courses in STD prevention before entering high school. Special thanks to all of our South Carolina advocates for this advancement in prevention.



The medical staff in Columbia provides STD treatment and counseling to South Carolina teens and adults.

All Smiles in North Carolina

From left: **Paige Johnson** (PP of Central NC) and **Melissa Reed** (PPHS) celebrate the signing of North Carolina's Healthy Youth Act along with Rep. **Susan Fisher** of Asheville, **Patricia Yancey** (APPCNC) and Governor **Bev Perdue**. The landmark legislation greatly expands access to comprehensive sexuality education for tens of thousands of public school students in North Carolina. The governor also signed into law a measure to limit protesters from picketing in residential areas – a problem that has plagued Planned Parenthood physicians and staff within our affiliate.



PPHS Foster Care Program Showcased at Congressional Hearing

On July 16 in the Russell Senate Office Building, PPHS Community Educator **Shannon Heintz** and one of her peer educators, **Darius Pulley**, appeared before the Congressional Roundtable on Preventing Teen Pregnancy and Promoting Healthy Relationships Among Youth in Foster Care. The hearing was led by **Senator Mary Landrieu** (D-LA) and provided an opportunity for experts, practitioners and those who have lived in foster care to discuss the need for better sex education and healthcare services for foster youth.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) President **Cecile Richards**, who participated in the hearing, called the statements by Shannon and Darius, “especially moving.” During the hearing, PPFA and other national organizations announced the formation of a new working group to help reduce the disproportionately high teen pregnancy rate among those in foster care and those aging out of the system.



Left to right: PPHS peer educator Darius Pulley, Community Educator Shannon Heintz and peer educator Jamal Campbell with Senator Mary Landrieu during Congressional hearing.

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