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## LETTER FROM PPNNE PRESIDENT & CEO, MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends,

As you have heard, this year PPNNE turns 50! The work we do today has been built on your shoulders and the foundation you, our supporters, helped create. Thank you for standing with us.



This significant milestone provides us the opportunity to reflect back on our pioneering past, and most importantly, look to the future by raising funds for a vision that is propelling us forward.

The heart of our work has not changed. However, we are responding to a changed landscape that includes health care reform, persistent assaults on our values and freedoms from political extremists, and—most important of all—a new generation of women and men, whose goals and expectations for sexual health care are dramatically different than those of previous generations.

To realize our vision for the future, we are reimagining the way we serve our patients. We are claiming our place at the health care policy table and we are strengthening and wielding our political power.

When we reach the successful end of this campaign and complete the work made possible by your support, we will:

- Be positioned to deliver our expert services with tools, technology and facilities that reflect the quality of our care.
- Continue our unwavering defense of reproductive rights.
- Provide our communities with honest and factual reproductive health and sexual education and information.
- Continue building on 50 years of changing lives, saving lives, and caring for every person who walks through our doors.

This is a truly transformational campaign, and we are well on our way. I'm pleased to say that to-date we have raised more than \$21 million toward our \$25 million goal. Now we are reaching out to you, our loyal friends, and asking for your help.

Throughout the year, I'll update you on how your support has made a difference with [The Plan. Forward. 50th Anniversary Campaign](#) and how it has impacted the vital work we do every day for our patients and our communities. Thank you!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan".

## STAY CONNECTED TO PPNNE

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[youtube.com/anakednotion](https://youtube.com/anakednotion)

[instagram.com/ppnne](https://instagram.com/ppnne)

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Meagan Gallagher**  
President & CEO

**Ellen Gitomer**  
Vice President of Development

**Amy Lafayette**  
Manager of Marketing & Communications

**Jennifer Powell**  
Director of the Annual Fund

**Erica Viscio**  
Graphic Design & Marketing Coordinator

## The Sangers - Rebels and Artists

*William, Margaret and Alexander Sanger: Paintings, Watercolors and Drawings*

May 2015 | PPNNE One Night Stand Gallery - 443 Congress St. Portland, Maine

PPNNE is proud to host "The Sangers - Rebels and Artists," an exhibition of the paintings, drawings and photographs of three members of the Sanger family: Margaret, who founded Planned Parenthood; her husband, William, who went to jail for distributing birth control pamphlets before she did; and their grandson, Alexander, currently Chair of the International Planned Parenthood Council.

Margaret Sanger took up watercolors after she moved to Tucson, Arizona for her health in the late 1930's and painted mostly desert scenes. By contrast, her husband, William Sanger, was a professional painter as well as architect, and had one-man shows in the 1910s, 20s, and 30s. He made frequent trips up the coast of Maine and the resulting canvases are stormy, dramatic, and visceral. Alexander Sanger took up drawing and watercolors after his retirement as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of New York City in 2000. He paints, like his grandfather, on the Maine coast and in New York City.

This year is the centennial of William Sanger's arrest and imprisonment for distributing birth control information. In early 1915, with his wife in exile in Europe, he was entrapped by an undercover police officer sent by Anthony Comstock, for handing out one of his wife's birth control pamphlets, a violation of the Comstock Laws. His trial in September 1915 was a cause célèbre. William challenged Comstock to his face, stating that, "It is the law, and not I, that is on trial here today." He spent 30 days in the Tombs prison.



*William Sanger, Watercolor*



*Margaret Sanger, Watercolor*



*Alexander Sanger, Watercolor*

## Today I Break My Silence...

*This story was shared with us on March 10th - National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers. Thank you for helping PPNNE provide expert, non-judgmental care and access to everyone who comes through our doors.*

"I had my abortion on a cold February day. I was young and knew that a child wouldn't fit in my life. I would make a point to tell a potential partner that if our birth control failed, I would end the pregnancy, and if he wasn't comfortable with that, then we shouldn't have sex. In graduate school it happened. My birth control failed, and I was pregnant. My partner supported my decision to have an abortion and drove me to my two health center appointments.

There were no protestors, no angry signs; just a quiet doctor's office. I remember being nervous. The nurses reassured me, and the doctor talked me through the procedure. Afterward, I rested for a while and went home, back to finishing graduate school and looking for a job. That was that.

Now, I have a 21 year old daughter. I have told her that if she ever has an unintended pregnancy, I will support her, whatever she decides. If she has an abortion I will go with her, hold her hand and comfort her. She knows that.

Yet I wonder about all the women who don't have a supportive partner or loving parent to care for them. I see the protestors and their angry signs and wonder about the health center staff who must think twice about telling people where they work, staff who spend their days being supportive and caring.



I thank the courageous and compassionate staff who helped me twenty-nine years ago and I thank the staff at PPNNE, who work every day to keep women healthy and ensure they have access to the reproductive health care they need – including safe and legal abortion. As a volunteer, I am lucky enough to see Planned Parenthood staff trust and care for women with dignity, providing the best care possible.

Today, I decided to share my story in honor of the men and women who work so hard to make abortion available. I proudly add my voice to the chorus of women across the country who are sharing their stories. The most powerful "thank you" I can think of would be an end to the stigma, shame, and silence women who have made the decision to have an abortion experience every day. Please join me in saying thank you."

## Intern Spotlight: Jess Wojenski

We are incredibly fortunate to have the help of amazing interns every semester. Jess Wojenski is a senior at the University of New Hampshire, majoring in Communication and Women's Studies and interning with PPNNE NH Public Affairs in our Concord office. She is the co-founder of UNH VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood.

Tell us about your recent story telling project at UNH:

As part of UNH Feminist Week, the UNH VOX chapter hosted a story telling event around reproductive rights and access. It was an intimate round-circle lunch where students and faculty listened to each other's stories. The intergenerational aspect of the conversation added valuable perspectives, especially for students who were not aware of the dark realities of the past when abortion and birth control were illegal.

We are carrying on this work now through interviews with community members. Some of the stories are heart wrenching, some are inspiring, some are uplifting, but all serve to remind us of the real-life impact of the amazing work Planned Parenthood does.

### Why did you want to do this project?

I think that personal stories are one of the most powerful and impactful ways to talk about these issues. They serve to remind all of us - the public, activists and supporters - why we do this work. At a time when the issues



can feel so political or too abstract, personal stories that reaffirm how important and essential this work is can be energizing and motivating.

It's incredibly important that we continue to open up spaces where stories of the past can be shared, documented, and disseminated, because many of the Born After Roe people don't really understand how things were. Personally, I didn't really comprehend it until I heard people talking about it firsthand. I think making sure those stories are not lost is of vital importance to this movement as a whole.

### Why do you support PPNNE?

I discovered feminism my freshman year of college, and it was an incredible feeling (Con't. on page 6).

(Intern Spotlight Con't.) to suddenly have the vocabulary, concepts, theories, etc. to describe the experiences and beliefs I had always felt but didn't know how to concretely articulate. I attended a Planned Parenthood Youth Organizing and Policy Institute at the beginning of my sophomore year, and met a few other students there. We all agreed that we felt like there wasn't a space on campus where students could meet and talk about feminist issues, or organize events around them, so we decided to start a VOX chapter on our campus. Now that the co-founders and I are in our senior year, the executive board has shifted to an amazing and dedicated group of under

class people, who are going to keep it going strong. I have been involved with PPNNE since my foundational years of learning about feminism, social and reproductive rights, and your values and mission have always aligned with mine. I am continuously impressed and inspired by your work and I am very glad I've been able to channel my newly discovered passion through involvement in your amazing organization.

*Do you have a story you would like to share? Please email it to [grassrootsnh@ppnne.org](mailto:grassrootsnh@ppnne.org).*

## West Lebanon, NH Health Center Relocates to White River Junction, VT

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, who made the move to this new space possible, we have the infrastructure and design necessary for modern health care, including exam rooms large enough to mentor the next generation of practitioners and physicians.

Since our move late last year, patients have been raving about their new health center.

To make an appointment, call 1-866-476-1321.



*The waiting room of our beautiful, state-of-the-art health center in White River Junction, VT.*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update & Events

2015 marks PPNNE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we've been busy celebrating this milestone!

Pictured at right: Fabulous staff and volunteers celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Magic Hat Mardi Gras Parade in February. The Burlington VT crowd of more than 20,000 loved our three-tiered birthday cake, beads, moonpies, and chocolate pill packs!



picture in our photobooth and upload it to their social media accounts to show their PPNNE support. Thousands stopped by to see us and get some great swag which was voted best in show!

On April 29th, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Portland, ME with an event at the Holiday Inn By The Bay. The event featured Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), our own Meagan Gallagher, President of PPNNE, and honored Dr. Dora Anne



In March, White River Junction staff tabled at the Home Life Show in Hanover, NH. Folks were encouraged to take a

décor by Transformit, storytelling, and much more! To see photos from the event, visit [www.facebook.com/ppnnehealth](http://www.facebook.com/ppnnehealth) or search Twitter or Instagram for #PPNNE50.



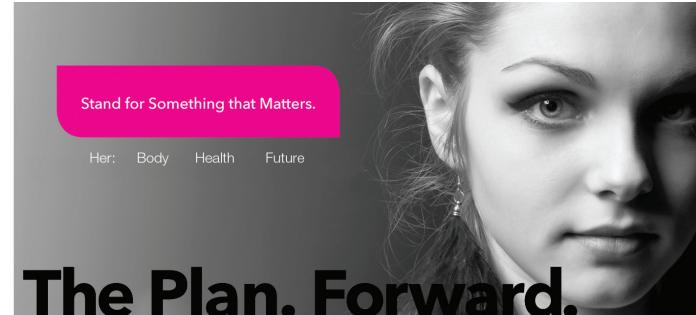
## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign: The Plan. Forward.

It is certainly true that we've come a long way since 1965, but if there's one thing the past has taught us - it is that you can never be complacent. As we enter our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we are not just making strides forward, we are defining a new vision for our work.

That is why we have launched our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign: The Plan. Forward. This campaign will help fund crucial updates to our facilities and programs that will position us to meet the new demands of tomorrow's generations and make our communities healthier. With your support we will:

- Transform and modernize our health centers throughout northern New England
- Leverage technology for better health care delivery and access
- Build an aggressive public policy program
- Rejuvenate our outreach and education programs to engage today's youth
- Provide direct care to more than 40,000 people annually

On paper it can seem like a daunting task, but we are well on our way to reaching our ambitious \$25 million goal. As of this printing, we have passed the \$21 million mark, and are working to raise the final \$4.4 million. But we can't do it without you. Stop for a moment to think about what



an significant impact your gift today, combined with the support of thousands of others, will have on the women, families, partners, boyfriends and teens that rely on our many services: cancer screenings, STD testing, education, contraception and family planning, health care reform, and insurance information ...the list goes on.

After renovating and relocating our Portland, ME health center, a visiting patient walked into the new space, looked around, and said: "I deserve this." There is no going back. We are proud of our history and excited about our future. Tomorrow matters. Together we will harness the opportunity of tomorrow and continue to empower women, men and families.

**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your most generous 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign gift today or donate at [ppnne.org/donate](http://ppnne.org/donate)**

## 50 Years Strong - A Moment From Our History

Here is an important milestone from our past:



**1970:** Abortion became legal in New York state and almost overnight, Planned Parenthood of Vermont (PPV) began receiving calls from pregnant Vermont women seeking abortion care. However abortion was still illegal in Vermont and PPV was unsure how to help these women. Laura Twitchell (above) sprang into action and set up referral relationships with several clinics in New York. She and a group of volunteers became full-fledged abortion counselors. Laura estimated that nearly 1,000 Vermont women had abortions in New York in 1971 and that a large majority were referred by PPV.

During this same time, a group was working to challenge Vermont's anti-abortion law and approached PPV to see if we could find a pregnant woman to testify. Laura spoke to several women on the phone each day, but recalled, "It was impossible to ask most young women to go this extra mile."

It took a year, but Laura finally found a patient willing to testify—Jacqueline R. Dr. Jack Beecham argued before the court that under the current law, Jacqueline's right to privacy was invaded and his right to take care of his patient was denied. The court dismissed the case and PPV appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court. Finally in 1972, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jacqueline R. The case not only made Vermont the fourth state to nullify its abortion law, but perhaps more importantly, helped to set the stage for *Roe v. Wade*.

Today at PPNNE, a fund exists to honor the late Laura Twitchell and her commitment to abortion access. **The Laura Fund** helps ensure access to safe abortion care for women who decide to end their unplanned pregnancy, but don't have the funds to pay for it.

If you'd like to make a special gift in support of the Laura Fund, please contact Jennifer Powell, Director of the Annual Fund at 1-800-287-8188 extension 9735 or at [Jennifer.Powell@ppnne.org](mailto:Jennifer.Powell@ppnne.org).



## A Thank You Note From a Patient

Each year, more than 40,000 women, men and teens turn to PPNNE's 21 health centers because of the expert, kind, non-judgmental and top notch care we are known for. This is our goal, and we know our services change lives. Recently, a patient sent our health care associate this note of thanks:

Hey (name removed)

I hope you remember me.  
Its been a while.  
I just needed you to know how much I  
appreciate you. You are an AMAZING person  
and great at what you do. I can't  
imagine going through what I did without  
your help and support.

I know Im just a patient, But your  
an AMAZING nurse and I wanted to make  
sure you knew that. THANK YOU FOR  
ALWAYS holding my hand when I needed  
it, even at 23 years old. lol.  
I've been meaning to write to you for  
a while, Im just super busy. So again,  
thank you so much JoAnne. You have  
no idea how much I appreciate you  
as a person and the kindness you  
are filled with. You will always be  
someone who makes the world a  
better place, you have far me.