

# Choice News



This year is off to a good start at PPHP. Renovations on our White Plains health center continue to move forward and should be completed soon. Renovations to our Smithtown health center began in March and we are excited to see the changes happening there.

I want to assure you that our doors will stay open, despite what you see and hear in the news. Changes to the Title X funding and the gag rule are an attempt to force Planned Parenthood health centers to shut down. However, with your continued support, we will continue providing care, no matter what, to those who choose to come to us, regardless of their ability to pay.

Please be sure to follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and like and share our posts. This helps get our messages to more people. At a time this like, having accurate information is essential.

Thank you for your continued support of PPHP.

In solidarity,

Vincent Russell  
President & CEO

## Fighting Back Against Changes to Title X

On February 22, the Trump-Pence administration released a final gag rule that undermines Title X, the nation's program for affordable birth control and reproductive health care, and makes it illegal for health care providers in the program to refer patients for an abortion. This puts health care at risk for four million patients and keeps people who can become pregnant from having information about all of their health care options.

The administration has put health care providers like Planned Parenthood in an impossible position: withhold information from patients or get pushed out of a program designed to ensure that people struggling to make ends meet can still access birth control, STI testing, cancer screenings, and other essential reproductive health care. Planned Parenthood serves 41% (1.6 million) of the four million people in the Title X program; this

## Education Program for Youth in Residential Facilities

Throughout the spring, the Education and Training team will be delivering multi-session sexuality education programs to young people in residential treatment facilities in Westchester County. Our education efforts in Westchester County residential facilities is supported by a generous grant from the St. Faith's House Foundation.

Our Community Health Educators will be visiting three separate sites to deliver programs to more than 50 young people on



rule leaves their health, rights, and lives hanging in the balance.

To fight back against this gag rule, Planned Parenthood is taking several actions. First, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and the American Medical Association filed a lawsuit. Second, PPFA launched a nationwide campaign to protect and expand access to health care, #ProtectX. This is where you can get involved and help fight back against this gag rule.

Visit [www.protectx.org](http://www.protectx.org) for more information.

Contraception, Safer Sex, Healthy Relationships, Consent, and Sex & Tech. These programs will provide an opportunity for at-risk youth to receive comprehensive sex education that can build the skills and knowledge they need to lead safe and healthy lives.

If you are interested in having our educators present to your community or parent's group please contact our Director, Education, at (914) 220-1038.



## Comedy Night Had Us Laughing

We welcomed nearly 150 guests to the Irvington Town Hall Theater on January 12 for our third annual PPHP Dirty Mouths, Dirty Martinis Comedy Night. Together, we laughed along with our five comedians while enjoying delicious cocktails, wine, appetizers, and desserts.

We once again thank PPHP Board member Susan Chatzky for bringing this event to our supporters as a way to celebrate her grandmother, Jean Carroll, who was America's first female modern stand-up comic. We are also grateful to Khris Tahmin for working to provide the delicious food and Erica Spera for securing the hilarious comedians.

We hope everyone had a great time and will be back again next year.

## PPHP Offers HIV Services

On February 7, we recognized National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and reaffirmed our commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on Black communities through comprehensive HIV prevention, testing, and linkages to care.

PPHP is an important resource to Black communities in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, and Suffolk counties for HIV prevention and testing. In 2018, we administered more than 9,100 HIV tests. PPHP is also proud to offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily pill that can help reduce transmission for people who are at high risk for HIV, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), a series of pills that, if taken within 72 hours of being exposed to HIV, can lower your chances of getting it.

To learn more about our HIV services, or to schedule an appointment for an HIV test, please visit [www.pphp.org](http://www.pphp.org) or call (800) 230-7526.

## New Sexual Health Chatbot for Teens

Planned Parenthood recently launched Roo, a Sexual Health Chatbot for teens. Roo can be accessed online or through text and is available 24/7 to answer common questions that young people may have around sexuality, relationships, or their bodies. Roo is free and private, and also allows a young person to be connected directly to a professional health educator if needed.

Our Education and Training team has begun introducing Roo to young people during all our community education programs to ensure that they have access to accurate, nonjudgmental information even outside of the context of the

classroom. To learn more about Roo, visit [roo.plannedparenthood.org](http://roo.plannedparenthood.org) or text Roo to 22422.

## It Was a Day of Action to Remember

On Tuesday, March 12, more than 1,000 Planned Parenthood supporters from across New York met in Albany for our annual Day of Action. More than 100 activists from Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, and Suffolk counties registered to represent our affiliate and discuss reproductive health care with our elected officials.

The day began with a rally in which our Associate Medical Director Meera Shah shared, "I'm an abortion provider because I trust my patients. My patients come from all different walks of life and have unique life experiences that bring them to the decision to have an abortion: the single parent of three who can't make ends meet. The young person who wants to finish high school and go to college. The trans patient who found out he was pregnant and an abortion became lifesaving. Abortion care is health care. Period. Abortion care, and all aspects of reproductive health care, affects all people of all gender identities."

Following the rally, activists met with elected officials about our family planning funding, maternal mortality, and sex education.

We thank everyone who spent the day advocating for reproductive health care and showing support for Planned Parenthood.

## Upcoming Events

For more details, visit [www.pphp.org](http://www.pphp.org) or contact Durrie Golding at [durrie.golding@pphp.org](mailto:durrie.golding@pphp.org) or (914) 467-7337.

### Cabaret Night Featuring Risa Finkel

Saturday, May 11, 2019  
Congregational Church of Huntington, Centerport

### Summer Benefit

Sunday, July 14, 2019  
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook

### Artists for Choice Annual East End Benefit

Saturday, June 15, 2019  
Guild Hall, East Hampton

### Empower Gala

Wednesday, October 2, 2019  
Doubletree by Hilton, Tarrytown