

Choice News

Letter from President & CEO



It's hard to believe but the year is nearly over. I'm happy to say that it has been a good year at PPHP, and that is due to your continued support.

In 2017, we opened a new, state-of-the-art health center in Riverhead, began a new education program for teens in Suffolk County, launched our telemedicine program to give patients greater access to health care, and had a record-setting attendance at our Day of Action in Albany. Our events were more successful than we had planned and our online donors increased 631%. Our supporters made calls and sent emails to their elected officials, signed petitions in support of legislation, and rallied for reproductive rights. It was truly an amazing year.

To say thank you doesn't seem to be enough, but I am thankful for all of the support we received this year. We are looking forward to 2018 and all the excitement that comes with a new year.

I wish you and your loved ones happy holidays and a healthy new year.

In solidarity,

Vincent Russell
President & CEO

Empower Gala Raised \$450,000

Thanks to your generosity, our annual Empower Gala raised more than \$450,000 for our health care services, education and training programs, and advocacy efforts. Nearly 300 guests joined together on October 19 to bid on silent auction items ranging from Hamilton tickets, to jewelry, to Giants and Rangers tickets, to culinary and spa experiences. Guests also donated during the Live Pledge Moment led by Adam Lipson and Empower Gala co-chairs Denise Lipson and Susan Chatzky.

Everyone was moved by the evening's keynote speaker, reproductive justice advocate and abortion provider, Dr. Willie Parker, particularly when he spoke about how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired him to believe that to



be a true Christian, he must show compassion for all women, without judgment.

"It was a wonderful evening and one of the most successful Empower Galas in recent years," said Vincent Russell, President & CEO, PPHP. "I extend my appreciation to everyone who supported the event and PPHP."

Teen Nights Begin in Suffolk County

Our Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) held its first Teen Night on November 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at our West Islip health center. Teen Night is a monthly event where young people between the ages of 10 to 21 have the opportunity to receive walk-in reproductive health care and sexuality education at our health centers at no cost.

At November's Teen Night, 13 adolescent Girl Scouts received a center tour, participated in fun, educational activities around sexual and reproductive health, and had dinner. Some of the attendees applied for the Family Planning Benefits Program (FPBP) and received medical services.

Teen Nights will rotate every month throughout our health centers in Suffolk County, allowing young people increased access to reproductive health care and the opportunity to learn more about our services. The PREP team is working with schools and community-based organizations in Suffolk County to bring more young people to 2018 Teen Nights, specifically from the areas of Amityville, Bellport, Patchogue, Middle Island, Riverhead, Brentwood, Central Islip, and Wyandanch.

The next Teen Night is scheduled for January 24, 2018 at West Islip health center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Giving Tuesday Raised \$29K

We challenged you to step up for our patients, health care, and reproductive rights for #GivingTuesday and you were up to the challenge.

Through your generosity and that of a matching gift, \$29,113 was raised for those in our local community who rely on us every day. This is a sizable increase from last year. These funds will be used for our health care services, education programs, and advocacy efforts.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sex, Pop Your Pop Culture Cherry, and Time for a Quickie. In addition to prizes after each round, guests also had the opportunity to win great raffle prizes.

All the attendees had a wonderful, and educational, evening. Thank you to everyone who attended or supported the event.



PPHP Staff Prepare for Flu Season—You Should Too

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends you get the flu vaccine before the flu begins spreading in your community. It takes approximately two weeks after receiving the vaccination for antibodies to develop in your body to protect against the virus.

Ideally, you should get the flu vaccine by the end of October. If you haven't received the vaccine yet, you should do so quickly. The New York State Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, declared today that influenza is prevalent in New York State for the 2017-2018 influenza season. At PPHP, our employees, temporary staff, contractors, and volunteers are receiving the flu vaccine so we can

protect ourselves and our patients. We encourage you to get the flu vaccine as well to help reduce the flu's impact in our community. For more information about the flu vaccine, you can visit the CDC's website--<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>.

Commemorating World AIDS Day

PPHP acknowledged World AIDS Day, which takes place on December 1 annually, with outreach and testing events in Suffolk and Putnam counties. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and to show support for those living with HIV.

In Suffolk County, Ladies Link-Up, the Community Promise peer program funded under PPHP's North Shore Long Island CDC grant, held four days of events to commemorate World AIDS Day at House of Essence Beauty Salon in Amityville. Throughout the week, women from the Amityville community received HIV testing and education materials. Over 600 condoms were distributed during the week as well.

The Education and Training team also provided free, rapid HIV testing and education on SmartWheels at Arms Acres inpatient drug rehabilitation facility in Putnam County. A total of 23 people received HIV tests from our Education and Training team through World AIDS Day events.



Sex Ed Trivia Provided Lots of Laughs

On Thursday, September 28, our Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) hosted Sex Ed Trivia—What They Didn't Teach You in School. Held at KOI Creative in White Plains, dozens of attendees formed teams to test their knowledge and compete for prizes.

The categories of the night included The Birds and Bees, Let's Talk About

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit www.pphp.org or contact Durrie Golding at durrie.golding@pphp.org or (914) 467-7337.

Dirty Mouths Dirty Martinis Comedy Night

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Irvington Town Hall, Irvington

Rivertowns 80's Bash

Saturday, February 3, 2018
Tarrytown House Estate on the Hudson, Tarrytown, NY

Annual Day of Action

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
The Capitol, Albany

East End Benefit

Saturday, June 2, 2018
Private location, Wainscott