Judy Tabar Announces Her Retirement After 20 Years of Service

After 20 years as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) and more than 36 years in the Planned Parenthood family, Judy Tabar has announced her retirement, effective April 2017.

Judy joined Planned Parenthood in 1980 as a physician assistant providing direct patient care. She then served as Associate Director of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England prior to moving to Connecticut in 1997, when she became President and CEO of PPSNE. Judy’s vision over the last 20 years has steered PPSNE toward reproductive health care advancements and direct community impact.

“Being the CEO of PPSNE is the greatest gift I could have imagined. It has offered me the opportunity to do meaningful work, which makes a difference in the world,” said Tabar. “Our patients inspire me and are the reason I have been here for 20 years, along with talented and dedicated staff and board members, our generous donors and our volunteers, whom I respect and admire. The PPSNE mission is compelling, our commitment to social justice and equity emboldens me, and the people who are drawn to work for and support Planned Parenthood are extraordinary.”

During her tenure, Tabar has overseen a 42% increase in patient visits and guided the 2009 merger of PP of CT and PP of RI. Tabar has placed PPSNE on the cutting-edge of reproductive health care service expansion by leading a $22 million Building Futures Campaign, now nearly complete. Since Tabar has been CEO, PPSNE has received a number of awards, including the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Excellence Awards in Clinical Services Expansion, Board Development and Special Efforts Serving Teens. Nationally, PPSNE is truly recognized as a leading affiliate thanks to Judy’s leadership.

“It has been such a joy and honor to work alongside her for the past decade. Judy is a selfless leader, a friend, and someone who has improved the lives of countless people in this country and across the globe. She will be much missed in the Planned Parenthood family; she has enriched our movement and our lives,” said PPFA President Cecile Richards.

Look for a special tribute to Judy in the next edition of the FOCUS newsletter!
Autumn is a season full of brilliant changes, and many momentous changes are on the horizon for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, too! Earlier this fall, I announced my upcoming retirement in April 2017. It’s hard to imagine not seeing our patients on a daily basis for they are the ones who have inspired me to do this work for the past 36 years. I am incredibly grateful to have had the tremendous privilege that you as supporters have given me – to lead and serve the important mission of PPSNE.

Thanks to your unwavering support, PPSNE is in a strong place, and it is a perfect time for new leadership to move the organization forward. Our board of directors recently approved a new strategic plan, setting in place our vision for the next several years. We have a strong commitment to advancing social justice and equity as we engage the next generation of diverse leaders in our movement. I have great confidence that our board will choose the right leader for this next chapter, and the organization will thrive with all of you as partners.

Five years ago, we embarked on the $22 Million Building Futures Campaign to ensure that PPSNE has the means to sustain its vision of a future where all people have access to health care. I am excited to report that upon its completion in 2017, the Campaign will position PPSNE as a health care leader by transforming health centers, expanding educational programs and health care access and empowering the next generation to lead healthy lives – all thanks to you.

Despite the continuing attempts to restrict access to sexual and reproductive health care, we continue to make great strides in our work. Your ongoing support allows us to remain focused on delivering high-quality, affordable health care for all people. We provide education and training across our two states, and we work tirelessly to ensure that policies and laws, particularly at the state level, promote and support sexual and reproductive freedom. Your support has made it possible for PPSNE to serve nearly 70,000 patients this past year, reach nearly 12,000 teens, parents, and youth-serving professionals with sex education and work closely with elected officials and lawmakers to make sure state legislation supports our mission.

It is clear that we are stronger together. Your partnership is essential to make possible our vision to create a healthier generation and a more just society. With your help, we will embark on a second century of changing lives, saving lives and caring for every person who walks through our doors.

As always, thank you for all that you do.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN PPSNE ON GIVING TUESDAY ON NOVEMBER 29 TO SUPPORT CT AND RI COMMUNITIES

Give to PPSNE on Giving Tuesday and you’ll be giving so much more than money. Your donation helps create healthy and happy communities from Bridgeport, CT to Providence, RI.

Thank you to the 268 donors who dedicated their support of PPSNE on Giving Tuesday 2015. This year, we hope you and many more will join us on November 29.

MAKE YOUR GIFT AT PPSNE.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY
The Special Bond Between Patients and Volunteers in Rhode Island

To enter the Providence health center, patients and staff must walk roughly 200 feet from a parking lot, across the street and up the steps to the health center’s front door. The walk itself takes less than a minute but some days the protest activity can make the small trek feel like a marathon.

The moment someone steps outside the fenced parking lot, they are face-to-face with protesters who hold gruesome signs and chastise anyone approaching the health center. Unlike other states that benefit from “buffer zone” laws that prohibit protest activity within a certain area around a health center, Rhode Island has none. Protesters can come as close to a patient as they’d like – and they do. From the moment a patient arrives, they are greeted by a volunteer in a bright pink vest ready to escort them through the protesters. The impact of the PPSNE volunteer escorts is immeasurable.

“We provide a buffer and offer patients support as we escort them to the building,” said Clayt W., who has been volunteering for more than seven months. “We don’t want anyone feeling alone or overwhelmed. The patients deserve to be supported. We have formed a special bond with the patients, and I look forward to continuing this work.”

PPSNE utilizes the help of 17 volunteer escorts who dedicate more than 7,000 hours each year to ensure patients can safely access the health center. These escorts play a vital role in the security and operations of the Providence health center and are true advocates for the reproductive health movement.

“Whenever patients arrive they are confronted by protesters,” said Susan M., who has been a volunteer escort for more than three years. “We reassure and comfort them as they walk through that onslaught. The thankfulness shown by patients, their families and friends, and staff keeps me motivated to continue volunteering as an escort. I want to always be here for them.”

The PPSNE escorts are compassionate, devoted to our mission, and make sure our patients feel safe and welcome. All Planned Parenthood supporters and staff offer a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers on behalf of the nearly 8,000 patients who visit our Providence health center each year. They help ensure our doors remain open – no matter what.

To find out how you can get involved, email volunteers@ppsne.org.

*To protect the privacy of our volunteers, we do not list their full names.*
Celebrating Our Centennial

PPSNE celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Planned Parenthood on October 24 at the College Street Music Hall in New Haven, CT. It was an unforgettable evening which reflected on the past, celebrated the present, and looked to the future. Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General; Marta Elisa Moret, president of the New Haven-based consulting firm Urban Policy Strategies; and Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor of Slate offered a fascinating view on reproductive health care to more than 220 supporters.

This special event raised more than $100,000. All proceeds from Cocktails, Conversation and Centennial Celebration go to care for PPSNE patients who receive high-quality, expert health care, regardless of their ability to pay.
Honoring Our True Champion

The definition of a champion is someone who fights for a cause on behalf of someone else. For more than 60 years, Rosalie Fain was just that and so much more to PPSNE. At this year’s Rhode Island Champions annual fundraising celebration on November 21, we will have the privilege of posthumously recognizing Rosalie as our tenth Champion. We honor her as a pillar of our community and celebrate her legacy that leaves a lasting impact.

Rosalie was a proud board member and board chair of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island. She fearlessly knocked on doors for dollars and advocated for women’s health at every opportunity. Long before the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Rosalie advocated for the rights of all women to have birth control and to plan their families. Over the years, her forward-thinking and tireless efforts protected Planned Parenthood from countless attacks and fierce opposition. Rosalie was fortunate enough to be able to see the progress of the movement and constantly reminded us all how far we have come since the 1950s.

In honor of Rosalie, our Champions, and the countless others who continue to fight for reproductive rights and access every day, we will never go back.
Zika and the Fight for Federal Funding for Planned Parenthood

The growing threat to women and newborns posed by the Zika virus has again put Planned Parenthood services and funding in the headlines. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend “family planning” as the primary strategy for reducing Zika-related pregnancy complications.

Unfortunately, funding to combat the spread of the disease was held up for months by anti-abortion members of Congress who are determined to keep funds from Planned Parenthood. Progress was finally made in September when the U.S. Senate approved funds to fight the Zika virus without cutting off providers, like Planned Parenthood, who remain the most qualified to help – particularly in underserved communities.

PPSNE is doing what it can to combat Zika locally. Every patient is asked about recent travel — for them and their partners — and any potential symptoms, such as a fever or rash, are noted. If identified as at-risk, testing is arranged through our state departments of public health. To date, one PPSNE patient, who was planning to become pregnant, was confirmed to have had a Zika infection. After learning her status and conferring about the risks of pregnancy complications due to the infection, she decided to delay pregnancy. This is why public funding for Planned Parenthood is so vital.

Politicians in at least 24 states – not in CT or RI – have tried to block access to publicly funded care within their state, even excluding Planned Parenthood from the Title X national family planning program. The good news is that the Obama Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently issued a rule proposing that state efforts to block patients’ access to care at Planned Parenthood violates federal law.

One hundred years after the inception of Planned Parenthood, we continue fighting those opposed to our mission on how to better provide care to those who need it. As we move into the next 100 years of progress, together we will work toward a future when the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ admonition “birth control is essential preventive medicine” is no longer controversial.

The Building Futures Campaign is Changing Sex Education in Fairfield County

Support for the Building Futures Campaign is making an impact on the way PPSNE delivers health care and education in Stamford, CT. These changes are directly due to the $8.75 million PPSNE is investing in Fairfield County to innovate and transform the accessibility and reach of our services in that area. Through the Campaign, PPSNE hired new staff and purchased and renovated a new, state-of-the-art health center and education space in Stamford. The training room dedicated to educational programming and outreach is a vibrant space.

We hit the ground running to discover what sex education needs are for youth and youth-serving professionals in Fairfield County. We connected with the Stamford community by expanding our network of resources to include community-based organizations that provide social services in the greater-Stamford area. We also are working with coalitions focused on youth, sexual violence and mental health. Very quickly, our educators became a known presence in the area and these new connections already have resulted in PPSNE providing educational programming in schools and other settings.

Michelle Jiménez Soto, Community Educator, teaching from the Education Center at the new Stamford health center.
Innovative Marketing Captures Attention Throughout Southern New England

PPSNE, in collaboration again with Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota (PPMNS), is proud to launch the second iteration of our Facts branding and patient recruitment and retention marketing campaign. The Facts 1.0 campaign was created in 2014 and redesigned to more aggressively elevate the expertise and breadth of services provided by Planned Parenthood by highlighting what we do best. Facts 1.5 tells it like it is. Reproductive health care – it’s what we do.

These bright, colorful creative ads will be visible across our two states beginning this fall. Through extensive digital, online and geo-targeted advertising, PPSNE is capturing the attention of current and prospective patients.

Look out for these ads online and on buses and billboards throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island!

2016 - 2017 PPSNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thanks to our FOCUS Contributors: Raj Cheema, Claire Phipps, Danielle Piendak, Pierrette Silverman and Susan Yolen.

PPSNE is placing ads in highly-visible locations, like the Dunkin’ Donuts Center in Providence, RI.
Planned Parenthood is **100 YEARS STRONG** Thanks to You

>>> Planned Parenthood was founded in 1916 on the revolutionary idea that women should have the information and care they need to fulfill their dreams – **no ceilings, no limits.**

For the past century, Planned Parenthood has transformed women’s health and empowered millions of people worldwide to make informed health decisions, forever changing the way they live, love, learn and work. On October 16, 2016, **Planned Parenthood turned 100 Years Strong — thanks to YOU** and our dedicated staff, board members, volunteers and patients we serve. One hundred years of care, education and activism have changed everything. **Women now have opportunities that were unimaginable in 1916.**

>>> Birth control, once out of reach, is widely available. Abortion, once a crime, is safe and legal. Planned Parenthood, once a single brownstone in Brooklyn, has nearly 650 health centers across the country – including 18 in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Planned Parenthood is honored to carry on a legacy of helping to ensure that all people have access to sexual and reproductive health and information.

We could not have made it to 100 years without the work of our **partners in the reproductive health**, rights and justice communities with whom we share our progress and achievements. We are proud to stand together as we work toward the next 100 years of progress.

>>> **However, there is still so much to do.** We will not rest until access to health care and rights become a reality for all people. **With you, and your support,** we will build on our proud legacy to launch our second century of health care, education and advocacy with as much passion, courage and conviction as the first.

Thank you for standing with us.

**OUR FUTURE:** Hundreds of youth leaders from across the country **Rally for Women’s Health on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.**

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## PPSNE Information

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