

Impact Update

JUNE 2021

PPKeystone.org



Message from Melissa Reed, President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Happy Pride Month! June is the time we honor our LGBTQ+ leaders for their hard-fought sacrifices. It is also a time of celebration to commemorate the incredible LGBTQ+ community.

This month our three LGBTQ+ programs, the Rainbow Room (Bucks), the Curve (York), and the Spectrum (Berks), have many activities planned so be sure to follow along on their social media accounts. I want to thank our LGBTQ+ program staff, who have worked so hard this past year to transition our programs to remote programming and hybrid programming. We know how important it is that our LGBTQ+ youth have a space to call their own - virtual or not!

This is also an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to the work of ending bullying, harassment, and violence against the LGBTQ+ community. Right now, the state legislature has an anti-trans bill that would prevent trans students from participating in school sports. This bill is rooted in anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and hate and has no place here in Pennsylvania. We are doing everything we can to push back against this kind of hate.

I think about Billy Porter's story. Billy Porter is an actor, media personality, and style icon. Recently, he shared his HIV status publicly after receiving a diagnosis in 2007. In an interview he said that "It would just be another way for people to discriminate against me in an already discriminatory profession. So I tried to think about it as little as I could. I tried to block it out."

It makes me think of others out there who felt/feel like Billy. Maybe it isn't their HIV status, but the way they

identify. Or who they love. Maybe it's the way they feel about their body. Regardless, we need to make sure that everyone is empowered to be themselves. Free from discrimination, hate, and violence.

And that's why it is so important that all of us at PPKeystone - you included - fight for the LGBTQ+ community. Everyone deserves to be their authentic selves.

Happy Pride,

Melissa Reed, MA JD
President & CEO





Vicki Cowart

Planned Parenthood of Rocky Mountains



Melissa Reed

Planned Parenthood Keystone



Jennifer Welch

Planned Parenthood of Illinois

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Our very own Melissa Reed was honored to be a guest on the weekly program Nonprofit Report by MOppenheim.org.

Host, Mark Oppenheim, led a discussion on sexual and reproductive health with guests: Melissa Reed, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Keystone, Jennifer Welch, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Illinois; and Vicki Cowart, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

WATCH NOW

Melissa Reed was a guest this past Thursday, May 27, 2021

PPKey Launches Menopause Services

Planned Parenthood Keystone is proud to announce the launch of menopause services, which allows patients to access non-judgmental care with one of our expert providers.

Like many sexual and reproductive health matters, menopause is sometimes treated as taboo. Access to care is not equitable across the gender spectrum or among marginalized communities.

Our providers are trained to work with each patient as a unique individual, not making assumptions about their sexual orientation or gender identity, both of which can have a great impact on the experience of menopause.

Like many other life events, menopause can be a different experience for cisgender women whose partners are other women or for transmen regardless of their partner's gender identity or sex.

Whether your personal experience with menopause is different than your healthcare provider may assume due to social bias, access to healthcare, socioeconomic status or any other biological, psychological, or social factor, Planned Parenthood staff are trained to ask questions regarding all kinds of unique circumstances you may be facing.

We're proud to provide expert, compassionate care and resources to people of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations.

We honor the strength, resilience, and power of the LGBTQ+ movement and we're here with you to support you, both in your health and in your rights.

Our health is connected, and we are doing all we can to take care of ourselves and our communities.

For more information on menopause services or to make an appointment, visit www.ppkeystone.org.



**Health
Has No
Borders**

**IMMIGRANT
HERITAGE MONTH**

#WeAreHome

As we approach Immigrant Heritage Month, and acknowledge that June is Pride Month and National Caribbean Heritage Month as well, Planned Parenthood's commitment remains certain: We stand in solidarity with immigrant communities of all backgrounds to ensure that all people in this country have access to affordable and comprehensive health care. People do not live single-issue lives – and celebrating all of these observances at once should reflect this truth. We are proud that Planned Parenthood health centers serve patients of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, incomes, and insurance types, as well as immigration statuses.

Since 2014, Immigrant Heritage Month has marked nationwide efforts to gather and celebrate the countless contributions that immigrants and their children have made – and continue to make – to the United States. Nearly 20 million essential immigrant workers are helping to keep the country healthy, safe, and fed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that the U.S. immigration system should protect the well-being of immigrants, including policies that ensure that all people in this country have access to affordable and comprehensive health care regardless of income or documentation status.

We condemn sexual and physical abuse; forced sterilizations; inadequate care and mistreatment of pregnant people; withholding access to full reproductive health services, including abortion; and unsafe practices that promote the spread of COVID-19.

We stand with DACA recipients, immigrants ineligible for DACA, TPS recipients, farmworkers – and all immigrants who are our supporters, patients, staff, and community members.

Please help us to raise awareness of the ways access to reproductive health care intersects with immigrant rights as well as racial justice – we cannot overlook the more than 500,000 Black undocumented immigrants who are subjected to higher rates of detention and deportation on criminal grounds than non-Black immigrants. Planned Parenthood will continue to stand alongside our partners in the immigrant rights movement for a future where all people – of all ethnicities and immigration statuses can live healthy lives and thrive.



IN MEMORIAM

Patricia (Pat) Kramer

We are saddened to share the passing of a dear friend of Planned Parenthood in Wilkes-Barre, Pat Kramer.

Pat believed in supporting her community and was a dedicated volunteer for Planned Parenthood and the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. We know her many years of service with PP have helped countless women throughout the region.

We honor her memory and send our deepest sympathies to her family and friends.



Pat Kramer
Obituary



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Everyone deserves care that's respectful and affirming, and gives them the resources they need to stay safe and healthy – no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The history of LGBTQ+ communities is about the power of resistance. As these communities rise up and resist, they continue to make space to be free and to live authentic lives. We stand with LGBTQ+ communities in support and celebration – and we'll keep fighting for the health care access and rights LGBTQ+ communities deserve.

For educational content on LGBTQ+ identities, visit our website. There's lots of information and resources to help you learn about yourself or become a better ally:

[Sexual orientation page](#)

[Gender identity page](#)

[Teens LGBTQ+ page](#)

[Teens sex, gender, and gender identity pages](#)

[Teen sexual orientation page](#)

June Observances

June 1-30	Caribbean American Heritage Month
June 1-30	Immigrant Heritage Month
June 1-30	Men's Health Month
June 1-30	Pride Month
June 12	Five-Year Pulse Remembrance Day
June 15	DACA anniversary
June 19	Juneteenth
June 20	World Refugee Day
June 27	National HIV Testing Day



**PRIDE
RISING**