

# FOCUS

Summer 2017

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

IT'S WHAT WE DO.



## New Leadership for PPSNE!

*A special message from Gayle Capozzalo, PPSNE Board Chair*

I am pleased to announce that the PPSNE Board of Directors has chosen Amanda Skinner, MSN, MBA as our next President and CEO. Amanda succeeded Judy Tabar, the organization's President and CEO of 20 years in mid-June.

A Registered Nurse and Licensed Nurse-Midwife, Amanda is passionate about women's health care. **Amanda is an experienced health care executive whose professional and personal experiences have been committed to improving the way health care is delivered.** After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Managerial Studies from Rice University, she went to Yale University School of Nursing for her Masters in Nurse-Midwifery. She then pursued her Masters of Business Administration from Yale University School of Management.



*Amanda Skinner began her PPSNE journey on June 12, 2017. She has been listening and learning from staff every day.*

**Amanda has an entrepreneurial spirit combined with significant strategic acumen, a demonstrated commitment to social justice and equity, clinical experience, and a keen sense of the future of health care delivery.**

While the Board's search committee interviewed many strong candidates, Amanda truly distinguished herself. We found and heard from others that Amanda has a strong leadership style and a keen eye for seeing what's happening, working with a team to figure out where the right opportunities lie, and then together pushing the entire boulder up the hill, keeping an eye out for the small rocks that can allow for some early wins. Amanda has a unique background in that she is a clinician who has held leadership roles in complex health care organizations.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary Bawza, Chief Operating Officer, who has been serving as interim President and CEO during this leadership transition.

**Please be sure to read a special Q&A on page 3 to learn more about our new President and CEO.**

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## The Beginning of a New Journey

Amanda Skinner, President and CEO

Hello friends. Summer always has been, for me, a time for transition, and this year is no different. I am humbled to be embarking on the most important work I will ever do as I join Planned Parenthood of Southern New England as the new President and CEO. I am looking ahead to the great work we will do together.

First, allow me a moment to look back. Judy Tabar has left a legacy of passion-driven transformation for PPSNE. I am personally grateful for the path she blazed and for her generosity of time, knowledge and support. Under Judy's leadership PPSNE developed a vision for a world where sexual and

**Together, we have the opportunity each day to improve individual lives and make a positive difference in the communities we serve.**

reproductive rights are basic human rights, where access to health care doesn't depend on who you are or where you live, and where every person has the opportunity to choose

their own path to a healthy and meaningful life. PPSNE has accomplished so much and there is still so much more to do.

As we start the new phase of this journey together, Planned Parenthood is facing unprecedented threats from the administration. They have made it clear, in word and deed, that they will make every effort to enact devastating funding cuts and legislation that are in direct opposition to our mission. Now more than ever, our advocacy efforts to protect access to sexual and reproductive health care rights are vital.

Faye Wattleton, a fellow nurse-midwife and a past President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, is a great inspiration to me. She once said, "The only safe ship in a storm is leadership." Now is the time for every one of us to be leaders. For me, that means I will be asking many questions, listening and learning.



With your support, we will continue to make sure that we provide services, education and information that meet the needs of all the people we serve, find new ways to extend our reach and increase access to all that we offer. **We will leverage our voice and influence as an advocate and ally in the fight for reproductive justice.** Together, we have the opportunity each day to improve individual lives and make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

I am honored to lead this incredible organization and so proud to be part of the PPSNE community. I can't wait to meet you all.

## 5 Things You Can Do to Support Planned Parenthood Right Now



**Donate** to Planned Parenthood  
[ppsne.org/donate](https://ppsne.org/donate)



**Be a Defender** and join a core group of supporters who pledge to give their time to defend Planned Parenthood.  
[PPaction.org/defender](https://PPaction.org/defender)



**Make Your Next Health Care Appointment** at a Planned Parenthood health center near you.  
[PlannedParenthood.org](https://PlannedParenthood.org)



**Call Your Representatives** and tell them you stand with Planned Parenthood.  
[istandwithpp.org/call](https://istandwithpp.org/call)



**Use #IStandwithPP** to show your solidarity on social media.

## Patients in Stamford Greeted by Allies

*Volunteers suit up to escort patients into the Stamford health center*

Since moving to its new location at 35 Sixth Street in Stamford, CT, patients and staff have seen those opposed to the mission of Planned Parenthood up their intimidation tactics.

**Immediately, local supporters stepped in to help.** With their time and energy, PPSNE expanded its volunteer Patient Escort Program (that is currently in Providence, RI and in New Haven, CT as the Welcome Crew) to ensure the safety and privacy of patients. The volunteer escorts, wearing bright pink vests, stand outside the health center and offer assistance to those who must navigate their way through protesters. **Within a few short weeks, more than 25 volunteers began regular weekly rotations in Stamford.**

Kelly Wheeler, one of the first to volunteer in Stamford, said that she is “happy to volunteer” with PPSNE, but at the same time is “upset that escorts are needed for patients to feel safe” when accessing health care at Planned Parenthood.

This dedicated team of escorts works daily to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. They are essential to patients receiving the high-quality care inside the health center. If you meet, or already know, a Planned Parenthood health center escort, please thank them.



*Volunteers play a vital role in the safety and security of our health centers. Pictured from L-R are Stamford Patient Escorts Bob Lion, Pat Nelson, Ann Wichman and Jennifer Balliet.*

**They are truly devoted to our patients and mission of care, no matter what.** For more information or to get involved, email [volunteers@ppsne.org](mailto:volunteers@ppsne.org).

## Q & A with Amanda Skinner

### » What drew you to this position/work?

I have wanted to play a leadership role in Planned Parenthood since I was in college taping safe sex slogans to condoms to hand out at the student center, but there are several things that draw me to PPSNE now. I am intrinsically motivated to ensure access to safe reproductive health care – it is part of my DNA. I believe reproductive health is foundational for all other health and wellness. I often described my work as a nurse-midwife as a vocation, in that it was a calling for me. I feel the same way now.

### » What excites you most about this new chapter in your life?

This next chapter is truly a dream come true; I keep catching myself thinking “wow!” I am beyond excited to go to work every single day knowing that I am doing something that makes the world a better place with people who share my devotion to the cause. I love being on a steep learning curve and doing work that is “intrapreneurial.” Joining Planned Parenthood at such a pivotal time energizes me.

### » What do you think is the most pressing challenge facing PPSNE today?

The current administration and the policies it supports, including the budget proposals we have recently seen, are devastating for the health of women, men and young people. I have been in health care for my entire career and I have never seen an administration so focused on dismantling access to care and using reproductive health as a political pawn with no regard for the human and societal consequences.

### » Who inspires you?

My mother had a poem taped to a mirror in our house called “To Be of Use” by Marge Piercy. It starts off “The people I love the best jump into work head first without dallying in the shallows...” I am inspired by people who live the message of that poem, most of all by my mom herself, who died in 2015 after a long battle with cancer. She was brilliant, brave and loving. I like to think she would be so proud right now. If I live up to the example she set, that will be a life well-lived.

*Continued on page 7*

## Record-Breaking Support for PPSNE

*Annual Spring Luncheon breaks fundraising and attendance records to support reproductive health care*



*A sold-out crowd of over 650 supporters filled the Stamford Marriott at the annual Spring Luncheon. The event raised more than \$700,000 for PPSNE.*

More than \$700,000 – a record-breaking amount – was raised to support the Planned Parenthood mission at the annual PPSNE Spring Luncheon on April 5 in Stamford, CT. In the room, more than 650 supporters gathered to support this final event in our year-long celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Planned Parenthood.

The event featured remarks by Jonathan Eig, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Birth of the Pill*. One of the most memorable highlights of the luncheon was an appearance by 25-year-old Ali Walensky, who shared her story of being diagnosed with breast cancer at a Planned Parenthood health center.

**Many in attendance cited the recent attacks on women’s health care and threats to “defund” Planned Parenthood as their reasons for attending the event,** which was co-chaired by Erica Buchsbaum, Julie Church, Danielle Eason, Mary Shaw Halsey Marks, Donna Moffly and Sheila Mossman.

Thanks to the committee for hosting such a great event, and thanks to all who attended for demonstrating that support for Planned Parenthood is as strong as ever – and for continuing to Stand with Planned Parenthood.

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## Meeting the Needs of Patients in Providence, RI

*200 loyal supporters celebrated the Grand Opening of our new location on Broad Street*



*The new Providence health center will see even more patients than before. The center opened in April 2017.*

**Over the last five years, patient visits to the Providence health center increased by almost 25 percent.** To meet the growing demand for our services in Rhode Island, we built a beautiful, new 12,000 square-foot health and community education center – located at 175 Broad Street. The new health center is centrally located with public transportation and offers free and secure on-site parking. Thanks to the supporters of the Building Futures Campaign, we will expand access to reproductive and sexual health services in Rhode Island, and provide essential preventive care and information to more people than ever.

**The new center was designed to improve patient experience. We saw our first patients April 24, 2017 and they were overjoyed with the new health center.** More than 200 supporters gathered on May 9, 2017 for a Grand Opening celebration. As a result of the hard work and collaboration of so many incredible donors, staff, and volunteers, the new health center went from a dream to a reality. Thank you for your generosity.

## Building Futures – One Generous Gift at a Time

*\$22 million investment in service to CT & RI patients will soon be realized*

Through the PPSNE \$22 million *Building Futures Campaign*, you are helping to build an organization ready to seize opportunities and thrive amidst future challenges. We are within \$50,000 of our \$22M goal. Thanks to more than 300 generous investors, women, men and young people throughout southern New England can now benefit from:

### » Transformation of Six Health Centers - \$14M

We are upgrading, redesigning and relocating health centers in six major metropolitan areas: Manchester, Stamford, Enfield, Hartford, Bridgeport and Providence. New locations were chosen for our most utilized centers to ensure that we are accessible to all people, allowing us to serve more patients each day. The centers feature additional exam rooms, spacious and private waiting rooms and additional education space.



### » Expansion and Support of Education Programs to Better Engage Youth - \$3M

We now have 90 STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) deployed in southern New England – reaching more than 9,000 of their peers with information about relationships and safer sex. Marketing and social media outreach at PPSNE have been expanded to reach young people and to increase engagement with Black, African-American and Latinx communities.



### » Funding Innovations in Service to the Mission - \$2M

PPSNE has revised clinical patient flow processes to streamline visits, resulting in a 50 percent or more reduction in wait times in many centers. We have upgraded our electronic records system to a new web application and centralized all of our data, allowing us to launch online appointment scheduling. In addition, patients can now be treated for a range of limited primary care services like upper respiratory infections, such as bronchitis or strep throat, work/school physicals, and skin conditions.

### » Securing the Future Through a Strong Endowment - \$3M

To ensure a stable foundation for the future, we doubled the size of our cash reserves, in part, through legacy giving from more than 140 friends who made a bequest to PPSNE. These generous benefactors have provided the investment income that will provide future funding for expanded youth programming.

### There is still time to join these monumental projects.

Together, we are changing the health care landscape not only for our current communities, but also for the thousands of patients who will visit us for decades to come. More than 300 generous individuals and foundations have come together to fund this life-changing work. **Do you want to join us in changing the world?**

To hear more about the exciting naming opportunities available and to add your name to the wall of donors, please contact Marjorie Wren at **(203) 752-2854**.

#### FOCUS Contributors

Josh Morgan, Danielle Piendak, Kafi Rouse, Pierrette Silverman, Erika Ulanecki, Marjorie Wren and Susan Yolen

## Grassroots Fundraisers Sprouting Up Across Southern New England

*Locals take action and generate financial support for PPSNE*

Planned Parenthood supporters are known to show up in pink droves whenever help is needed. Since the election, PPSNE supporters have channeled their disdain for the current administration's hostile views towards women and attacks on Planned Parenthood into powerful energy. **Independent fundraisers hosted by and for locals have sprouted up all across southern New England with generous contributions being donated for the patients who need it most.**



*Lucy McClure and Valerie Garlick, organizers of the Connecticut Nasty Women Art Exhibition, help place a commemorative plaque into the flowerbed of the new white rose bushes planted outside of PPSNE New Haven, CT health center as a sign of resilience.*

These independent fundraisers have come in many shapes and sizes. In Bethel, CT a 16-year-old put out donation jars to collect spare change. In Wakefield, RI a bookstore donated a day's worth of proceeds. Three women fundraised for PPSNE while training for a half marathon and in New Haven, CT, artists who participated in the Nasty Women Art Exhibition donated art sale profits. Charitable donations from these events support the thousands of people who rely on Planned Parenthood every year.



*A 16-year-old took it upon herself to put out Planned Parenthood donation jars around her town in support of the PPSNE mission.*

Thank you for dedicating your marathons, yoga classes, concerts and proceeds of sales to help move the mission of Planned Parenthood forward. Your support makes a huge difference. **From \$5 to \$50,000, we could not do it without you.**

## Honoring My Sister's Legacy

*A special contribution to FOCUS by Sarah Champagne*

My sister, Megan Kleczka, was a proud activist for social justice and a campus intern with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). Sadly, 10 years ago this past April, she passed away in a car accident when she was just 20 years old.

**Megan loved PPSNE for the same reasons that I do.** Planned Parenthood was always there for us and will continue to be there every day for thousands of others across CT and RI. Planned Parenthood always provides a safe environment for people of all ages to access reproductive health care in a judgment-free environment, no matter what. **Despite ten years since my sister's passing, much work remains.**

Right now, we face a severe and hostile political climate. My family has been comforted by the memory of Megan's early and passionate activism and support of Planned Parenthood. Even at her young age, she left us a rich legacy of meaning and involvement – to stand up for what you believe in.

I encourage you to take a stand. **Your voice, donation and involvement are powerful** – especially since we are facing the toughest of fights. You can leave a legacy and shape how you want the world to be, and you can do it right now. To get involved and to fight back, email [organizing@ppsne.org](mailto:organizing@ppsne.org).

To contribute to the organization Megan cared so deeply about, visit [ppsne.org/donate](https://ppsne.org/donate).



*Sarah Champagne, on right, and her sister Megan Kleczka were best friends. Sarah honors her sister's legacy with steadfast commitment to PPSNE.*

## External Threats + Activist Energy = POWER for PPSNE

*The election sparked a tidal wave of activism that's moving across southern New England*

Hundreds of activists in CT and RI continue to flex their post-election muscles, inspired by the massive rallies of last winter. They're getting acquainted with the legislative process. They're emailing and calling their state legislators. They're showing up, making demands at town hall meetings, and telling personal stories about the impact PPSNE has had on their lives and families. They want to hear how Planned Parenthood is faring and how they can help.



*The halls of the State House in Providence, RI were packed with Planned Parenthood supporters earlier this year – many of whom had not considered themselves political before the latest Presidential election.*

**It's a “movement moment” for Planned Parenthood – and moments like this don't come along very often.** We are doing everything we can to seize this opportunity. There is work to be done in CT and RI and your actions can help PPSNE continue to be an agent of change!

### In Rhode Island:

#### **Reproductive Health Care Act (HB 5343/SB 0274):**

Advocates of reproductive justice are rightly concerned about whether the Supreme Court, with the next Trump-appointed justice, will overturn *Roe v. Wade*. RI has outdated, punitive abortion laws on the books (like requiring 'spousal consent' prior to an abortion) that must be removed. That's why we're working hard to pass a law that protects access to safe, legal abortion in Rhode Island, once and for all.



*A wave of new energy and support has manifested itself across our two states. Above, first-time activists gather at the State House in Hartford, CT.*

### In Connecticut:

In the 2017 CT General Assembly session, we helped pass a bill that bans conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth – the sixth state to do so! We also fought to maintain a 1-credit public high school graduation requirement in health and safety education. Despite our efforts, other legislation we championed failed to pass, but we are committed to fighting for:

**SB 586:** to protect access to preventive reproductive health visits and all FDA approved birth control methods.

**HB 6212:** to create a system of paid family and medical leave in CT for those without paid time off.

**SB17/HB7000:** to assist students without legal immigration status with the cost of college.

**What can you do to help?** Reach out to your local elected officials and ask for their verbal or written support of these bills next session. Call them, Tweet, post on Facebook – let your voice be heard! If you talk to an aide, ask for a call back. Share your personal story if you have one. Report back to us what you hear – we'll be counting the votes!



*Continued from page 3*

### » **What is your prediction for PPSNE one year from now?**

Challenges bring opportunities for us to be innovative and engage even more deeply with our community. One of the

surprising outcomes of the election is a surging of activism and engagement in the fight for reproductive freedom. I was at the Women's March on Washington in January and was in awe and overwhelmed by the hundreds of thousands of people from all generations raising their voices and taking action. At Planned Parenthood, we provide care, no matter what. I know a year from now we will be providing care, no matter what, to the people who need and rely on us.

**Read the full Q&A at [ppsne.org/Amanda](https://ppsne.org/Amanda)**

## How Four Years as a PPSNE STAR Changed My Life

*A special contribution to FOCUS by Martin Clark, a former STAR*

Days before beginning high school, I got my first real job. While many people my age worked at the mall or at a local restaurant, I was hired to be a Teen Peer Educator with the PPSNE STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) program. Admittedly, I wasn't sure what the position would really mean for me or for others. However, this experience changed me from a young freshman – focused on being the class clown – into a passionate senior, proud of what he has done for his community.

As a STAR, I was trained by PPSNE educators. My job was to bring that information to teens in my school – a place where there was no effective sex education class. **What it really boiled down to is teens giving teens life-changing information that most adults simply aren't willing to talk about.**



*Martin Clark, (center) a four-year STAR with PPSNE is a go-to resource for his peers. Pictured left to right at the 2017 New Haven, CT AIDS Walk: Silvio Barnes, Martin Clark, Laiyah Hamilton & (seated) Idonia Thomas.*

*...this experience changed me from a young freshman – focused on being the class clown – into a passionate senior, proud of what he has done for his community.*

On some days, it was me passing out condoms and advocating for safer sex, healthy relationships and being well-informed. **On other days, I'd find myself talking to an absolute stranger who had no one else to talk to but me – the goofy guy who hands out condoms in the halls.**

These strangers would come to me afraid that they have contracted an STI or afraid that they're pregnant. Some knew they were pregnant, but didn't know what to do.

On those days, that goofy kid transformed into a confident, supportive and well-trained teen peer educator. We would work together to come to a solution, which often meant bringing that person to Planned Parenthood for health care.

**During the four years I spent with the STARS program I grew from a goofy freshman into a young man who is excited by helping people, talking to people and simply being there for people.** I graduated high school this past June, and as I plan to head to Sarah Lawrence College in just a few short months, I know I will continue to be a resource for people my age – thanks to what I learned in STARS.

### PPSNE Information

Headquarters: 203.865.5158  
ppsne.org

Call 1.800.230.PLAN (7526) to reach the center nearest you

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