



# NEWS SOURCE WINTER 2015

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends,

As we come to year end, I look back on 2015 with gratitude. In a year of unprecedented attacks and challenges, you, our unwavering supporters, have rallied and stood by our side like never before. Thank you.

What we've found in the aftermath of these attacks - the orchestrated national video smear campaign, the defunding of PPNNE in the state of NH, the attempts to defund us in the state of Maine, the vicious vandalism at our health center in Claremont, NH, and the national attempts to federally defund Planned Parenthood - is that we are stronger because of you.

You have told your stories of what a difference Planned Parenthood has made in your life. You've supported our work with generous gifts, attended rallies, signed petitions, volunteered your time, and escorted PPNNE patients past lines of protestors so they can get the care they need.

This is not the outcome our opponents wanted. They wanted to shut our doors. They wanted to scare and intimidate us. They wanted to see you, our supporters, shy away from this cause you care about. I'm proud to say they underestimated us - you and the entire Planned Parenthood community.

We have so much to be proud of. Teen pregnancy rates and abortion rates are at a 40 year low. This is not because of the work of our opponents. This is because of you and your support of Planned Parenthood. Together, we keep women, men, and teens in northern New England healthy, and ensure they have the ability to choose if and when to have a child - helping them achieve their dreams.



We know the coming year will hold its own unique challenges. Make no mistake - the future of Roe v. Wade is on the ballot in 2016. Women's health is, and will continue to be, a vital issue. We will need your continued support as we navigate the coming months.

Again, on behalf of the 40,000 patients that rely on us each year, thank you for standing with PPNNE.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,

### CONTRIBUTORS

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For more information about our work or about contributing to PPNNE please be in touch: [supportus@ppnne.org](mailto:supportus@ppnne.org), 1-800-287-8188 ext 9704.

# 2015 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

*What a year it has been!*

As you know, this year Planned Parenthood of Northern New England has seen unprecedented attacks and challenges to our work. But we've also had incredible triumphs - thanks to you!

Fraudulent videos designed to mislead the public and lawmakers led to unwarranted investigations and efforts to defund the work you care about.

Locally, the NH Executive Council voted to slash more than \$600,000 of PPNNE's funding over the next 2 years. Our opponents are attempting to do the same in Maine right now.



*A small portion of the extensive vandalism at our Claremont, NH health center.*

This fall, our Claremont, NH health center was horribly vandalized with a hatchet and spray paint causing thousands of dollars of damage. We responded quickly, making sure our patients got health care at other PPNNE health centers until we could reopen.

Despite these challenges, YOU - our supporters - have stood by Planned Parenthood in so many inspiring ways as we proudly celebrate our 50th Anniversary, even while our opponents have stooped to unbelievable lows.



*Supporters from Bennington, VT who organized a #PinkOut Day rally.*



*Supporters in Portland, ME on PinkOut Day. Photo by Winter Wind Photos.*

Together we celebrated a proud history and life-saving mission at our 50th Anniversary event in Portland, ME with PPFPA President, Cecile Richards.

You've emailed, called, and stopped us on the streets to tell your stories of how Planned Parenthood has made a difference in your lives as patients, as activists, as volunteers and as supporters.



*150 supporters at the #PinkOut Light Brigade at the NH State House. Photo by Chris Saunders Photography.*

You've made generous donations, of all sizes. You made Pink Out Day - a national day of supporting Planned Parenthood, a huge success. You came out and volunteered your time in record numbers all across the organization.

Thank you for all of the amazing ways you've stood by Planned Parenthood and through your efforts, helped ensure access to care - this year and for the last 50 years. We are so grateful to start the next 50 years with your partnership. To make your year-end gift to support this vital work, please use the enclosed envelope, or make your gift online at [www.ppnne.org/annualfund](http://www.ppnne.org/annualfund).

## DONOR PROFILE: JOE AND DOTTIE HIGHLAND

*We greatly appreciate the generosity of PPNNE supporters, like you, who stand by us through our challenges and triumphs. After the New Hampshire Executive Council's decision to strip more than \$600,000 of our funding over the next two years, many in the community reached out to us with gifts, messages of support and volunteer time. Joe and Dottie Highland, of the Highland-Mills Foundation, are some who gave an emergency gift to PPNNE following this defunding. Here is an interview with Joe about their decision to make a special grant to PPNNE:*

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND DOTTIE BEEN SUPPORTERS OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD?

We've supported Planned Parenthood at the national level for over ten years, but had never given to PPNNE before. We had never seen a situation like this that made us act on an emergency basis. I don't agree with the decision to defund PPNNE, neither does Dottie, neither do our kids. We talked about it as a family. The donation was based on a very strong feeling that women's health care shouldn't suffer because of what I believe is a political decision, and one that doesn't think about the women who need health care.

### WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT THE NH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION TO DEFUND US?

I heard about it on NPR and I was appalled—both because we strongly feel women should have the care they deserve and appalled because we are NH residents. The votes to defund PPNNE and not provide women with real options for health care struck us as outrageous and inconsistent with good public health, and very, very wrong.

### YOU HOPED YOUR DONATION COULD BE USED TO INSPIRE OTHERS. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO OTHER PPNNE SUPPORTERS?

I would urge PPNNE supporters to help overcome the deficit created by the NH Executive Council, in order to ensure the 12,000 patients in NH get the



*Dottie and Joe Highland, donors*

health care they need. When you are as fortunate as Dottie and I are, and able to afford the health care services we need, we have to ensure the actions we take help provide services to people who are less able. To me, that's a fundamental tenet. We've been fortunate, and we've worked very hard—but that doesn't make me any more deserving of health care than someone who hasn't had the same opportunities or successes. We as a community and as a country need to look out for each other. If we fail to do that, we harm the individual and there are family repercussions. That's why we gave money and that's why I would urge others to help make up the deficit.



In Memoriam of The Honorable Barbara W. Snelling

**1928-2015**

PPNNE VT Board Member & Honorary Board Member

Barbara's dedication to supporting women and families will not be forgotten.

# I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD... BECAUSE PLANNED PARENTHOOD STANDS WITH ME.

*We recently received this incredibly moving story from a supporter and patient, who gave us permission to share it. It is because of supporters like you that this person was able to access our expert, compassionate care. We hope as you read this story, you know that your support makes our work possible. Thank you.*

I stand with Planned Parenthood for many reasons. One of the reasons is that Planned Parenthood, I found out firsthand, stands with me.

Two years ago, my ex-husband stopped by my house and told me he had AIDS. I was shocked and sad. It was not until he left that I did the math. We had been divorced just short of ten years ago.

I did some research and found out that it was in the realm of possibility that I could have been infected, as the HIV virus can take up to ten years to present. It was unlikely, but it frightened me. I was terrified.

I spoke confidentially to some close friends, all of whom recommended I get tested right away. I called my gynecologist. They offered a test, but the results were not as fast as I wanted. Someone told me there was a rapid test available, so I called a local organization that offered HIV testing. The man on the phone was not helpful, and frankly, didn't seem to care very much about my fears or my strong desire to get immediate results. They were not testing that day, he said.

Then I called Planned Parenthood. They told me I could come right in.

I had been to the Burlington health center before, but as a donor, as a tourist. This time I entered as a very frightened, very vulnerable client.

The women who greeted me were kind and efficient. The office was sparkling and clean. I waited for 10 minutes. Then I got the test. And then, very quickly, the results: Negative. Thank God.

I will never forget the way I was treated. Everyone I saw that day was so sympathetic, so gentle, so compassionate, so respectful, so patient. When I got the results, the technicians and I hugged. They knew what was at stake. They got it. It was an incredible experience. No one knew I was a



donor. I could have been anyone. I was anyone. I got just as good care -maybe even better than at my gynecologist's.

I will never forget this experience. Planned Parenthood let me walk in off the street and get the results I needed in a timely, efficient, compassionate manner. It angers me so much that anyone would think of defunding Planned Parenthood. I will stand with Planned Parenthood for many reasons. And while I do, I will remember that when I really, REALLY needed them, Planned Parenthood stood with me.

## STAY CONNECTED TO PPNNE

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