



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

# NEWS SOURCE WINTER 2016

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, I want to say thank you for all the ways you support the work of PPNNE.

Many patients and supporters have shared their worries and concerns with us since the election. I want to assure you - our doors will stay open.



Attacks on women's health care are not only dangerous, they are unpopular - the majority of Americans stand with Planned Parenthood. And while there is uncertainty ahead of us, one thing is certain - our commitment to the diverse communities we serve and the principles of reproductive, economic, and social justice have never been stronger.

So many people have contacted us about how they can help. Inside, you'll see some ways you can continue to Stand With Planned Parenthood.

Join us. You can make a difference. Together, we will protect our most fundamental human rights.

Thank you for standing with us - we will surely continue to need your help.

Forward together,

## 2016 AT-A-GLANCE ELECTION RECAP

**Nationally:** The majority of American people - including 48% of Trump supporters - oppose defunding Planned Parenthood, but it is unclear what will happen.

**Concerns:** Our patients. Planned Parenthood health centers serve 2.5 million patients each year. 1 in 5 women has turned to Planned Parenthood for care, and best estimates are that nearly 1 in 3 will have an abortion in their lifetime.

Our doors stay open. We will never back down and we will never stop fighting to ensure that Planned Parenthood patients have access to the care they need, no matter their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, country of origin, zip code, and more. Health care should not be political.

**NH:** Chris Sununu defeated women's health champion Colin Van Ostern for Governor.

**Concerns:** Governor-elect Sununu has pledged to support 5 pieces of legislation that would restrict access to care, or affect the experience of our patients. And funding for our health centers may face renewed threats from the state's Executive Council because vocal opponents of Planned Parenthood were (re)elected.



**Opportunities:** Maggie Hassan defeated Kelly Ayotte for U.S. Senate. She joins Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Rep. Carol Shea Porter and Rep. Annie Kuster to bring an all pro women's health delegation to Washington.

(Continued on next page)

## 2016 AT-A-GLANCE ELECTION RECAP CONT.

ME: The Maine Senate has more leaders ready to stand up for Planned Parenthood this year than last, but the loss of important leaders in the House mean tighter margins in the other chamber. We took a stand in support of Question 4, the ballot measure to increase the minimum wage, because it would make a difference in the lives of our patients and Mainers struggling every day to make ends meet. It passed with a large margin.

**Concerns:** Ability to defeat legislation that restricts access to reproductive health care services.

**Opportunities:** Increase of our margin in the Senate by two votes; if we are able to maintain bipartisan support, we will have a majority in one chamber of the legislature.



VT: Vermont's strong support of women's health in the Legislature continues.

**Opportunities:** Legislation passed in recent years ensures Vermonters will continue to have access to no cost birth control even if parts of the ACA are repealed. We will work to maintain funding and bolster progressive legislation, while fending off any potential restrictions or challenges.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### PLANNED PARENTHOOD NEEDS YOU. THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP



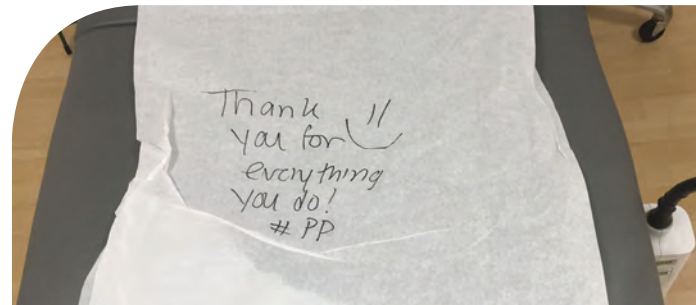
An unknown, wonderful supporter chalked this outside of our Portland health center following the election.

It's times like these that we rely on you.

In the weeks and months to come, it will be more important than ever to stand together and keep fighting to ensure Planned Parenthood health centers across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

can be there for those who need us most – people who come from communities that especially need our continued support in this new reality - immigrants, people of color, the LGBTQ community, people of faith, and more.

Planned Parenthood will always be there, no matter what, thanks to you, our supporters.



A patient left this note of thanks on an exam table.

#### Here Is What YOU Can Do!

1. Be a supporter - Make your gift at [www.ppnne.org/annualfund](http://www.ppnne.org/annualfund) (and invite your friends and family to make a gift, too!).
2. Write a letter to your local paper voicing your support of PPNNE and the expectation that newly elected will stand up for reproductive rights.
3. Order your own I Stand With Planned Parenthood bumper sticker for \$5.00 at [orders@ppnne.org](mailto:orders@ppnne.org).
4. Share why you support PPNNE on social media and with us at [supportus@ppnne.org](mailto:supportus@ppnne.org)!

Go to [www.ppnne.org](http://www.ppnne.org) to do any of the following:

5. Join an action team to help in your local community.
6. Become a patient!
7. Join our activist network for email alerts.

# STORIES OF HOPE: HOW SUPPORTERS ARE DOING THEIR PART TO HELP PPNNE

## ALLIE + JACK

*Allie Stickney, former PPNNE CEO, and Dr. Jack Beecham, the physician in the landmark case that legalized abortion in Vermont, were wed in August. In lieu of gifts, they asked guests to donate to PPNNE. Here's what the happy couple had to say:*

"Our wedding on August 20th was both a joyful celebration of our union and a wonderful opportunity to reaffirm our decade's long commitment to women's health and the importance of Planned Parenthood in people's lives. Our marriage has been so joyful that we don't feel further gifts to us are necessary, but we delight in honoring this organization that benefits so many.



Former PPNNE CEO Allie Stickney and Dr. Jack Beecham encouraged people to contribute to PPNNE in lieu of wedding gifts.

We have strongly supported Planned Parenthood's commitment to the health and dignity of women, the right of everyone to make their own voluntary reproductive and sexual decisions, and the importance of access to health care services. By encouraging gifts to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, we can help support the provision of safe and dignified health choices for the many who depend on this essential organization for their care."

## RONNIE FLASCHNER



In lieu of birthday gifts, Ronnie Flaschner encouraged her friends and family to donate to PPNNE and raised \$1,700.

Earlier this year, Ronnie Flaschner celebrated a milestone birthday, and in lieu of gifts, she asked that people donate to PPNNE. "As I get set to celebrate my 70th birthday, I can't ignore the political environment around us," she wrote in an impassioned appeal to her friends and family. "With Roe vs. Wade hanging by a fraying thread, we cannot give

up on the fight to ensure a woman's right to complete reproductive health care." Ronnie is no stranger to this fight - for many years, she worked as a social worker in Boston, providing services to pregnant and parenting teens in Boston. Now the mother of two grown children, Ronnie was shocked to learn that when her daughter was in medical school, specializing in maternal fetal care, she was the only student in her class who elected to be trained in abortion services. Her total commitment to this work is contagious - we received 15 gifts totaling over \$1,700 in honor of Ronnie in celebration of her birthday!

**Please consider joining Allie & Jack, and Ronnie by making a gift to PPNNE to honor friends or family at the holidays, or for a special occasion. It's easy. Just go to [www.ppnne.org/annualfund](http://www.ppnne.org/annualfund) to make your gift and check "Honor or Memorial", or be in touch with us at [supportus@ppnne.org](mailto:supportus@ppnne.org) or 800-287-8188 ext 9704. And encourage loved ones to do the same! Thank you.**

## STAY CONNECTED TO PPNNE



# MAKE A YEAR END GIFT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF PPNNE



PPNNE has been here for more than 50 years and we will be here for 50 more. Moving forward, we will do what we have always done: provide expert, high quality services and work in our three states to protect access to the reproductive health care that our patients depend on. We will be here for you, our friends, neighbors and families.

Stand with PPNNE through a generous donation. With your support we will KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN and keep our life-changing work going.

With your help we will:

- Be there for a mother who had to choose between birth control and buying groceries for her children.
- Help a recent graduate receive follow-up care for an abnormal Pap test.
- Provide STD testing to an unemployed mechanic so he can enter his new relationship with confidence.
- Educate the parents who want to talk to their teenage daughter about sex and staying healthy.
- Advocate for reproductive health care in the ME, NH, and VT legislatures when our opponents introduce restrictive bills and attempt to defund this important work.

And as the trusted provider of choice, we will be there to offer safe, legal abortion for the woman who has decided that this is not the right time to have a child.

**You can make your tax-deductible gift by using the enclosed envelope, by calling us at 1-800-287-8188 ext 9704, or online at [www.ppnne.org/annualfund](http://www.ppnne.org/annualfund).**

**Thanks to all our readers who wrote in with their stories of why they support PPNNE in our last edition of News Source! Keep 'em coming - you can send them to [supportus@ppnne.org](mailto:supportus@ppnne.org)!**

"69 years ago when planning our wedding for September 6th, 1942, we knew that with twins on both Bill's family and mine we needed to plan when to start a family... Where we lived a doctor could not legally give me advice - I took the train to Providence, RI and was fitted for a diaphragm as a patient at Planned Parenthood. We had a son in 1950 and a daughter in 1952. I am 92 years old and I have sent gifts to Planned Parenthood for many years and still do all I can."

-Barbara, a PPNNE supporter from ME

"When I was a student, navigating my way as an adult separate from my parents, Planned Parenthood was there for me. I want to support and give back, especially for my daughter and other young women, so they have the same opportunities I had."

-Linda, a PPNNE supporter from ME

## CONTRIBUTORS

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