

Choice News

Letter from President & CEO



It has been a busy start to 2018. We had two exciting events—the 2nd Annual PPHP Comedy Night and The 80's Bash which

raised funds for PPHP and Pro Familias in Puerto Rico which is still recovering from Hurricane Maria.

It was announced earlier this year the Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America is stepping down this spring. We will miss Cecile's leadership but know that the next president will lead us through any challenges that arise.

This summer we have two events that you won't want to miss—our 30th Annual East End Benefit on June 2 and the 21st Annual Summer Benefit on August 2. Lastly, our Empower Gala will be on Wednesday, October 3.

Thank you for your continued support of PPHP and our mission, services, and programs.

In solidarity,

Vincent Russell
President & CEO

April is STI Awareness Month

This April, we are celebrating Get Yourself Tested (GYT) as part of our sexually transmitted infection (STI) awareness campaign. On April 18, we offered free HIV testing at our health centers.

There are many misunderstandings about having an STI:

- Anyone who has had vaginal, oral or anal sex could get an STI. No one should be shamed, harassed, or judged because they have an STI or because they want to use protection.
- All STIs—even HIV—are treatable, and many are curable. Early treatment can help prevent serious, lifelong health problems that can result from STIs, but the only way to know your status is to Get Yourself Tested.

Community Promise Continues Work in Suffolk

Community Promise is a program that trains peer advocates in Suffolk County to provide HIV prevention education and information throughout their communities. In November 2017, four women graduated from the peer advocates training. On March 5, two additional women completed the comprehensive six-hour training, delivered by PPHP's Community Health Associate.

The team of six peer advocates will continue to work, distributing condoms, sharing HIV prevention education, and holding events to promote awareness of sexual and reproductive health. On March 31 the peer advocates hosted a "Girls Day Out" at House of Essence Salon



- Not all medical checkups include STI testing so unless you ask to be tested, you can't assume you have been.

Getting tested and knowing your status shows you care about yourself and your partner. If you're nervous, know the more you do it, the easier it gets!

in Amityville. PPHP's SmartWheels education and testing mobile was onsite offering free, rapid HIV testing, and safer sex materials.

PPHP congratulates the two new peer advocates and looks forward to supporting everyone's valuable work to lower the rate of HIV in Suffolk County.





Turning the Capitol Pink

On Tuesday, March 13, hundreds of Planned Parenthood supporters came together at the Capitol in Albany to stand up for reproductive health care, including dozens of supporters from Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties. Unfortunately, due to the snow, supporters from Suffolk County were unable to join us.

The day began with an uplifting and motivating rally which included personal experiences from patient advocates and health care providers. Elected officials including Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, also brought the crowd to their feet.

During the day, supporters met with state legislators and asked them to do several things:

- Decriminalize abortion and move it out of the penal code and into public health and education like other medical procedures
- Improve access to contraception for all New Yorkers
- Prevent maternal mortality
- Establish a comprehensive sex

education curriculum across the state

Planned Parenthood's annual Day of Action is always an exciting experience, whether it is someone's first time lobbying or their tenth time. We are looking to plan more meetings with our elected officials in their district offices in the coming months so be sure to look for more information soon.



Attend Our 30th Annual East End Benefit

On Saturday, June 2 we're hosting our 30th Annual East End Benefit in Wainscott. This year's event will be unlike any we have had in the past and you do not want to miss it.

This year, we are featuring a unique piece of art and will have the artist, Niki Johnson, on hand to speak about her creation, *Hills & Valleys*. *Hills & Valleys* is 11 feet tall and created from signage of the Planned Parenthood health centers closed under Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, where Ms. Johnson resides. The piece makes a strong statement about women and reproductive health care and this is the first time it

will be seen on the East Coast.

More information about the East End Benefit, sponsorship packages, and tickets are available at www.pphp.org/EastEnd2018.

Renovations to Our Health Centers

During this year, we are planning to undergo renovations to three of our health centers so they better meet the needs of our patients and staff. The first center, Huntington, closed on March 12 so renovations, which include a new security portal, newly designed waiting room, and updates to the exam rooms, could begin.

Once the renovations are complete, we will hold a re-opening ceremony; be sure to look for that information in May. Later this year, renovations will be done to our Smithtown and White Plains centers as well.

At PPHP, our goal is to provide high-quality health care and we believe these renovations to our centers are an important step to meeting that goal.

Register to Vote

This November 6, all New York State Senators and Assembly members are up for election. Be sure you are registered to vote so your voice can be heard. Visit www.ny.gov/services/register-vote for more information.

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit www.pphp.org or contact Durrie Golding at durrie.golding@pphp.org or (914) 467-7337.

East End Benefit

Saturday, June 2, 2018
Private location, Wainscott

Summer Benefit

Sunday, August 5, 2018
Harmony Vineyard, St. James

State and Local Primary Elections

Tuesday, September 13, 2018

Empower Gala

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Doubletree by Hilton, Tarrytown