

Choice News



Expanding Access and Services

In September, Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (PPHP) launched Online Appointment Scheduling (OAS). This now affords our patients the ease and ability of booking appointments online for certain visits such as obtaining birth control, STI testing and treatment, HIV testing, well-woman exams, and more. If a patient books an appointment for an abortion, prenatal visit, or any other service a Customer Service Representative will contact them immediately to book an appointment. This is an important service for our patients as it allows them to book an appointment when it's convenient for them without having to make a phone call or visit a center.

PPHP is the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the country to utilize OAS with eClinical Works (eCW), our electronic health records system. This is exciting for PPHP, as other affiliates who utilize eCW are looking to us

for guidance and information on the process.

OAS is one of several steps PPHP has taken to increase access to our health care services. We also expanded the hours of our Call Center, now open earlier and staying open later, so patients are able to speak to a Customer Services Representative when it is more convenient for them.

Moving forward, we are reviewing the hours of operations for our 10 health centers, analyzing when most patients would like to schedule their appointment in order to determine if any hours need to be changed to better meet their needs. We are also exploring having Teen Hours, times during the day that would be reserved for teens who want appointments, making it more comfortable for them to come when their peers are also getting health care services and educational information.

We have recently added two new services in our health centers—a smoking cessation program that works with the New York Smoker's Quitline, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) which is for those who engage in clinically-proven high-risk activities and can prevent them from getting HIV if they are exposed to the virus. We continually evaluate the services we offer to determine what is needed to better meet the needs of our patients.

At PPHP, our mission is to empower individuals to determine their own sexual health and reproductive futures. We believe that through these measures and the additional ones that are being explored, we will reach more women, men, and young adults who are looking for high-quality, confidential care. For many patients, we are the only health care provider they see and we want to be as available to them as possible.

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy summer and early fall here—we've had three fundraising events, been registering people to vote in the upcoming election, attending community and health fairs to educate individuals about our services and reproductive health, and adding new services.

On September 27, we held our Empower Gala where we honored Jane Orans and the Westchester Women's Agenda. As former Texas State Senator Wendy Davis delivered a heart-felt and motivational keynote address, she spoke of the struggles her grandmother and mother faced and how she used their strength and experiences to get to where she is today. We also heard an emotional story from Jenna, a patient and staff member who shared her harrowing experience of getting an illegal abortion in Ecuador and which drove home why we can never let that happen in this country.

On October 16, Planned Parenthood kicked-off its Centennial Celebration and #100YearsStrong campaign with events across the country. This is a year-long effort of acting, sharing, and celebrating the progress Planned Parenthood has driven for women and families over the last 100 years. We will not rest until access to health care and rights are a reality for all people.

Election Day is November 8. In addition to the President, all New York legislators are up for election. You have one voice—be sure you use it on Election Day and vote for candidates who share your beliefs and concerns.

Thank you for standing up for Planned Parenthood and your continued support of reproductive justice in our country.

Best,



Reina Schiffrin, MPH



Four recent graduates of our Promotores program with Jenna Manders, Promotores Coordinator (center)

Community Volunteers Help Educate Their Peers

At PPHP, we try to reach as many women, men, and young adults as possible, yet we can't be everywhere all the time. That is why we turn to members of the community who volunteer their time to help educate their peers on the importance of sexual and reproductive health care.

In Westchester County, our Promotores program consists of bilingual members of the community who want to help their peers, especially when language may be a barrier to health care. The Promotores complete eight hours of training related to HIV, birth control, domestic violence, resources in Westchester, and more. Once the training is complete, the volunteers join our staff at community events with our *SmartWheels* education and testing van, and tabling at college campus and health fairs. We are currently recruiting for our next group of Promotores, focusing on the Peekskill community.

In Rockland County, we work with high school students in Clarkstown, North Rockland, Nyack, Ramapo, Spring Valley, and Tappan Zee through our program called Teen Information and Peer Services (TIPS). The youth who

volunteer, TIPSters, complete a 30-hour training program that educates them on HIPAA and personal health information, healthy relationships, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), birth control, and more. Once the training is complete, TIPSters join our staff at community events such as health or community fairs, and they assist staff when we are conducting education programs in their high schools. Our TIPSters host events in our Spring Valley health center so their friends can meet the health center staff and tour the center, hoping to make them more at ease when booking an appointment for health care services. Many of our TIPSters continue their involvement with Planned Parenthood when in college through the campus group or with the local affiliate.

These volunteers give a great deal of their time to help others in the community because they believe in our mission and the essential health care services we provide. They make an impact on those they reach that lasts well beyond their initial contact. We couldn't do all we do without these dedicated volunteers.

In Memory of Rosamond “Rizz” Dean

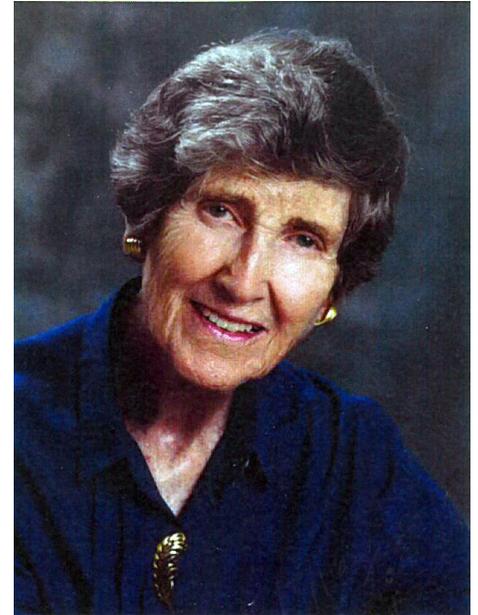
On July 15, PPHP lost a dear friend, leader, activist, and champion, Rosamond “Rizz” Dean, and she will be greatly missed. After attending Smith College in the 1940s, Rizz went to work in housing, helping relocate tenants, many of whom were low income, to make way for the newly planned community of Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village in lower Manhattan. Construction of the complex resulted in the forced eviction of about 11,000 people. The New York Times called the move from the site “the greatest and most significant mass movement of families in New York’s history.” After her marriage and move to Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, Rizz became active in multiple community organizations.

She began work with North Suffolk Planned Parenthood in 1952. Later, she was board chair, a clinic volunteer, fundraiser, a local council member, public affairs advocate, and co-chair of the Legacy Society. Rizz was a

founding member of Suffolk County Abortion Rights Committee and New York State Citizens for Family Planning Political Action Committee.

When Rizz finally gave up cross country skiing in her eighties, she continued to walk daily and work out on a treadmill in her home. At age 92 she was taking Tai Chi classes. She was the mother of six children, attentive grandmother of 15, matriarch of a larger family, lifelong housing activist, reader, athlete, hostess, gardener, Presbyterian, and avid follower of current events up and involvement with PPHP until her very last days.

Rizz’s deep commitment to and involvement in the struggle for reproductive rights was invaluable to our community and mission. Whether mailing invitations, recruiting new volunteers, lobbying legislators, or writing letters to editors, her energy and determination were a beacon for us for more than 50 years. We



will miss her quiet demeanor yet strong, passionate commitment to reproductive freedom.

Registering People to Vote

On November 8, millions of people across the country will go to the polls to elect our next President of the United States, members of Congress, governors, state legislators, county legislators, and mayors and town supervisors. Here at PPHP, we believe that each and every person has a powerful voice through their vote and we want to be certain their voice is heard.

To do so, PPHP staff and volunteers have been crisscrossing our communities registering people to vote. We have been at community fairs, college campuses, in our health centers, and on our SmartWheels education and testing vans. In August and September, we registered 186 people to vote, and 134 people who were already registered pledged to vote in November. We registered 36 people

on National Voter Registration Day on September 27. Our staff and volunteers continued registering people to vote until October 14, the deadline in New York.

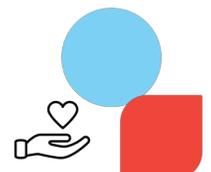
In the days leading up to the election, we will send emails to our supporters and post to social media reminding everyone of the importance of voting in this election, and all elections. Everyone has a voice—they must be sure to use it.



Volunteers through our Health Center Advocacy Program collect stories from people in our health centers. If you would like to volunteer for this program, please contact our Human Resources Department at (914) 467-7325.

Julia shared her story:

“ I come to Planned Parenthood rather than my primary care doctor because Planned Parenthood makes me feel comfortable in that I am not judged. Planned Parenthood answers all my questions and I feel safe and at ease here. Thanks Planned Parenthood! ”



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For more information about PPHP services and programs, please call (914) 467-7329 or visit www.pphp.org.

Health Center Locations: Huntington, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Patchogue, Riverhead, Smithtown, Spring Valley, West Islip, White Plains, Yonkers

Calendar of Events

Election Night Happy Hour
Tuesday, November 8, 6-9 p.m.
The Velvet Lounge, East Setauket

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, November 29

Emerging Leaders Council Paint Night
Thursday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.
Great South Bay Brewery, Bayshore

Day of Action
Monday, January 30, 2017
New York Capitol, Albany

For more information on our events, visit www.pphp.org.

Interested in volunteering with PPHP? There are a variety of opportunities throughout the year for volunteers. Please call (914) 467-7325 for more information.

Donate today! To continue your support of PPHP, visit www.pphp.org/donate or call (914) 467-7337.



Images clockwise: Reina Schiffrin received the PPHA Ruth Green CEO of the Year Award on June 9; Staff at the Human Rights Summit on Aug.25; Honorees Congressman Steve Israel and Jerry and Tamra Stoller at our Summer Benefit on July 10 with hosts Marsha and Henry Laufer; Empower Gala co-chairs with keynote speaker former Texas State Senator Wendy Davis and Assemblymember Amy Paulin on Sept. 27; Volunteers in Smithtown on Aug. 25; Special guest Martha Plimpton at our East End Benefit on May 29.