

Insider News



You Made The Empower Gala A Huge Success

On Wednesday, October 2 we held our annual Empower Gala and you showed up and made the night an incredible success, raising more than \$650,000! Our emcee for the evening was Kirstin Cole from PIX 11 and our keynote speaker was Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Ms. McGill Johnson said, "People come through for Planned Parenthood because Planned Parenthood has always stood with them. We know this from the millions of personal stories from people whose lives we've changed. When we add our people, our affiliate networks, our unapologetic stance on providing abortion, our research, our education, and our advocacy to these stories, we become whole – and have ourselves a superpower."

During the evening we honored two unparalleled supporters,

Daphne and Bob Philipson, with the PPHP Legacy Award. They spent many years supporting patients by standing outside a health center to block protesters, as well as constant advocates for access to reproductive health care.

Throughout the night, guests bid on items in our silent auction. However, the real excitement came during the live service auction when it was announced that all money raised would be matched by a generous supporter up to \$100,000. Not surprisingly, we surpassed that match and raised \$140,000, totaling \$240,000 for our health care services!

Thank you to everyone who worked on the committee to make it such a wonderful evening and thank you to everyone who supported The Empower Gala You can view photos from the evening on our Facebook page.



Top: PPHP President & CEO Vincent Russell, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Meera Shah, Planned Parenthood Federation of America Acting President and CEO Alexis McGill Johnson, PPHP Legacy Award recipients Daphne and Bob Philipson.



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support. I know everyone has busy lives but you continue to find time to support our work, whether it's making a donation, attending an event, or taking action to protect access to reproductive health care – every part is important and makes an impact in our communities.

We have been working hard to expand our health care services this year, with plans for new services next year as well. Our education team has been in new schools and communities, teaching young people about sexual and reproductive health. Through our advocacy efforts, many new laws were passed this year, increasing access to reproductive health. Next year, our goal is to pass legislation for all New York students to have sex education that is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate.

The best way for you to get up-to-date information about Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic is to provide us with your email address. We send out a monthly email as well as breaking news alerts when necessary. To be added to our email list, please email Development@pphp.org.

Please be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to learn about our work and how you are helping.

Thank you again for your continued support of our health care services, education programs, and advocacy efforts. We could not do it without you.

In this together,

Vincent Russell
President & CEO



Expanding & Improving Health Care Services

In June, we launched our Gender Affirming Care services in White Plains, expanding from our Smithtown health center. These services are for our transgender, gender nonconforming, and non-binary patients and include gender affirming hormone therapy, self-injection trainings, and sensitive sexual and reproductive health care.

We recently expanded the services offered through SmartWheels, our mobile health centers. Now, patients are able to get STI testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, PrEP, and PEP, emergency contraception, some forms of birth control, and pregnancy testing. Our two SmartWheels travel throughout our four counties to provide care in the community to those who may not be able to visit one of our health centers.

Recently, we had a patient on SmartWheels who had not seen a health care provider in 10 years. Because SmartWheels was in his community, he was able to get care.

On Wednesday, October 23 we held the the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our White Plains health center. Major renovations to improve the experience for our patients

and staff, as well as enhance their safety and security, were recently completed at the health center.

The renovations began nearly one year ago and include: relocating the entrance for patients and staff from the front to the rear of the building for improved safety and security so they will not have to walk past the protesters standing on the street, redesigning the waiting room, a new lab area, a new nurses' station, upgrading the exam rooms, and an exterior make-over, along with other improvements.

Renovations to our Smithtown health center are nearly finished as well. Renovations there include: new exam rooms and improvements to existing rooms, new nurses' station, new lab area, and improvements to the building's exterior.

We are deeply grateful to all our supporters who contributed to the renovations and made this possible. Our patients and staff truly appreciate your generosity.



Educating Youth Today To Make Informed Decisions Tomorrow

With your support, our Education and Training team has conducted over 600 education programs and participated in nearly 50 outreach events this year. Through these efforts, we've reached over 11,000 individuals, mostly young people. Our staff members also facilitate trainings for professionals in schools and colleges, residential facilities, community organizations, and parent groups. We strategically partner with schools and community-based organizations in areas that may lack access to health care services and other resources, ensuring that we are reaching priority communities throughout the four counties we

serve. Education programs cover topics such as consent, healthy relationships, birth control, safer sex and STI prevention, and more.

Our team also coordinates health center events to increase young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services, and partners with schools in Rockland and Westchester counties to operate a peer education and youth leadership program for high school students

For parents, we offer education programs on techniques to discuss sexuality and reproductive health with their children.

Through our Let's Talk program, our staff provide parents with the resources they need to discuss

sexuality and reproductive health with their children.

If you are interested in having our staff attend your community group meeting, parent group, or school, please contact our Associate Vice President of Education and Training at (914) 467-7336.



You Can Get Involved

You can get involved and help our Public Affairs Department pass legislation to ensure all students across New York have access to sex education that is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate.

We have developed and are implementing a comprehensive campaign to garner support for the Comprehensive Sexuality Education bill (S4844/A6512). The campaign includes the creation of regional volunteer committees to act as lead activists, monthly themed social media campaigns, and specific state elected official targets with the goal of gaining bipartisan support. Through activist events, in-district meetings with elected officials, and story collection, the goal is to build community and political momentum to pass the bill in the 2020 legislative session.

We are looking for supporters to learn more about this bill and raise awareness in your communities.

You can also volunteer and be part of our Health Center Advocacy Program (HCAP). Volunteers engage individuals within our health center waiting rooms and promote patient participation in civic engagement and reproductive rights activist activities. Campaigns change seasonally and include voter registration, the campaign to pass sex education throughout New York, collecting stories, and other issues related to reproductive health care.

We are also planning for our annual Day of Action in Albany. The date is still being set, but it's a great opportunity to meet with elected officials and discuss issues related to reproductive health, including sex education for all New York students.

If you are interested in getting involved with these activities, please contact our Public Affairs Manager at (631) 240-1129.



HCAP Corner

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

Michelle from White Plains shared her story:

“I came to Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic for my first pregnancy. At that time, I did not have insurance. They helped me get insurance. I loved the prenatal care they gave me. They really care about your decisions and help you with everything you need. That's why I've decided to come to Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic for my second pregnancy.”



Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic
Administrative Headquarters
570 Taxter Road, Suite 250
Elmsford, NY 10523
www.pphp.org

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White Plains, NY
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For more information about PPHP services and programs, please visit www.pphp.org.

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

Save The Dates

Roe on the Rocks
Thursday, January 16, 2020
White Plains, NY
Thursday, January 30, 2020
Islip, NY

More information on our events, visit www.pphp.org.

Continue Your Support

A monthly gift to PPHP ensures security for patients in your local communities. Consider joining our Monthly Giving Program today at www.pphp.org/donatetoday.

Double your impact! Does your employer have a matching gift program?

Committed to safeguarding the future of reproductive health care? Consider leaving a legacy gift to PPHP.

Please contact the Development Department at Development@pphp.org for more information.

Donate today! Visit www.pphp.org/donatetoday.



Images, clockwise: PPHP President & CEO Vincent Russell and honoree Phil Palmedo at our Summer Benefit; HCAP volunteer, Sally, helping people register to vote; celebrating Pride Month; Emerging Leaders Council members; Teen Information Peer Services (TIPS) volunteers attending a college fair.