

# PLANNED PARENTHOOD IS HEALTH CARE.



## Reproductive Health Care is Health Care

*Expanding the Ways We Make Health Care Accessible for All*

Our patients come to us to receive nonjudgmental, expert health care such as birth control and emergency contraception, breast cancer screenings, abortions, STD/STI testing and treatment, PrEP (HIV prevention), HIV testing and counseling, and well-woman checkups. **Every person deserves high-quality, affordable health care that is accessible and convenient. Because of you, we are able to offer just that.**

You have supported our innovation that allows us to meet people where they are. Just this past fall, PPSNE launched its Online Appointment System (OAS) Gateway. This system allows patients to book appointments at PPSNE health centers through our website, PPSNE.org. **The new system makes scheduling appointments easier, and more accessible.** OAS was designed in-house to enhance the patient experience, reduce costs, and eliminate reliance on third-party vendors.

**Since its launch 4 months ago, the PPSNE OAS Gateway has booked 10,959 appointments—including 3,760 appointments for new patients, who otherwise may not have received the care they need.** For the 4-month period ending January 31, 2019, total patient visits at PPSNE health centers were up more than 8 percent over

the previous year. Thank you for being part of the solution to remove barriers to health care. Now, more people have access to Planned Parenthood and the life-saving reproductive health care services we offer.

As we fight across the nation for reproductive and abortion rights, one thing that remains true, we will not back down, we will not rest, and we will not stop providing essential health care. **Women’s lives are at stake. Everyone deserves access to the reproductive health care they need. Reproductive health care is what we do. Reproductive health care is health care.** Planned Parenthood is health care. Thank you for helping to expand the ways we make health care accessible for all.

### IN 4 MONTHS...

**10,959 appointments**



**3,760 new patients**



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## PPSNE Stands for Our Patients

Amanda Skinner, President and CEO

Each time I walk into a Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) health center, I feel an immense sense of gratitude to PPSNE supporters like you, who are dedicated to ensuring that sexual and reproductive health care and education services are available to everyone in our area. **Thank you for being a vital member of the PPSNE family, and for your continuous support.** Supporters like you make our work possible. By investing in PPSNE's youth education programs and health care services, you play a critical role in helping us deliver on our commitment: a world where health care is accessible to everyone regardless of their income, race, or gender.

Through your generosity, more young people like Audrey O'Donnell, a member of the PPSNE STARS teen peer educators' program, are empowered to stand with us and speak with courage and clarity to members of the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee about the

**"You make it possible for PPSNE to fight back against the challenges we are facing from the current administration."**

importance of passing legislation protecting the right to abortion. I watched Audrey proudly as she stood strong and declared, "Young people like me need to have access to full health care and reproductive services." Her passion for advocating for health care justice is both inspiring and a testament to the work we are doing together.

You make it possible for PPSNE to fight back against the challenges we are facing from the current administration. **With you on our side, we will continue to expand services and access to care, deepening our commitment to health care equity.** PPSNE is seeing more patients



Amanda Skinner speaks at the RICRF Celebration event.

than ever before, while providing high-quality care and a positive patient experience. I am grateful that supporters like you see the value of investing in the PPSNE mission.

As we move forward in the new year, we know there will be more challenges to come our way. However, we are in a pivotal time in our history where we can create the future we want to see. I am grateful for your partnership and the opportunity to advance PPSNE's mission in providing access to every person that enters our doors, no matter what.

From all of us here at PPSNE, thank you for fearlessly standing with Planned Parenthood.

In solidarity,  
Amanda

## Leading the Campaign to Pass the *Reproductive Health Care Act*

*PPSNE is Partnering with Supporters and Allies to Protect the Right to Safe and Legal Abortion in Rhode Island*

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is leading the campaign to pass the *Reproductive Health Care Act* (RHCA) to codify *Roe v. Wade* in Rhode Island, a need made pressing by the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh last fall. Introduced by longtime allies Rep. Edith Ajello and Sen. Gayle Goldin, the RHCA would preserve the rights of Rhode Island women that are currently guaranteed by *Roe*. It would also take abortion restrictions that are unconstitutional and unenforceable (due to *Roe* and subsequent U.S. Supreme Court rulings) off the books in Rhode Island.

Gov. Gina Raimondo promised to sign the RHCA into law and expressed her support for protecting reproductive health in her January 15 State of the State address. A boisterous January 23 kickoff in the “ROE”-tunda of the Rhode Island State House attracted hundreds



*Planned Parenthood and RHCA supporters, including RHCA cosponsors, Rep. Liana Cassar and Rep. Moira Walsh.*

of supporters and featured inspiring speakers, including PPSNE’s own Amanda Skinner. The RHCA has a record 38 cosponsors in the House and 17 in the Senate.

A few days later, advocacy efforts were complicated by the introduction of the *Reproductive Privacy Act*. Sponsors assert this bill would achieve the same goals as the RHCA. However, the *Reproductive Privacy Act* would need significant changes in order to be accepted by our campaign and by our partners in the Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom. At this writing, negotiations were underway to make those changes, with hopes that a resulting bill will gain passage during the current legislative session.

On February 6, the *Providence Journal* said in an editorial: “Nevertheless, the mere chance that the court may someday review *Roe v. Wade*, and turn power back to the states, has led some advocates of abortion rights, including in Rhode Island, to seek to codify the court’s 1973 ruling in their state’s law. As longtime supporters of abortion rights, we believe that there is a value in going through this exercise, even though it may be symbolic at the moment. **It is very important that women be reassured that their rights to choose will not be stripped away by a Supreme Court ruling at some future date.**”

We agree.

A massive grassroots plan to support the RHCA is underway. It includes door knocking, social media messaging, mailings, and phone banking. These efforts are focused strategically on legislators who need to hear—loud and clear—from their own constituents.

**To get involved in the campaign to pass the *Reproductive Health Care Act*, contact [organizing@ppsne.org](mailto:organizing@ppsne.org).**

**THANK YOU** Audrey O'Donnell for your bravery, advocacy and commitment to pass the **Reproductive Health Care Act**.

*Audrey O'Donnell, a junior at the The Met High School, a youth empowerment organization coordinator, and an intern and STARS peer educator at Planned Parenthood testifies to members of the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee on January 23, 2019.*



## Fighting for Paid Family Leave

*PPSNE is Working to Pass Legislation that Provides Paid Family and Medical Leave for All Connecticut Workers*

Too many workers in Connecticut are forced to choose between their own health, the family they love, and the job they need. **Everyone deserves paid time off to care for their loved ones and themselves.** That's why Planned Parenthood of Southern New England serves on the steering committee for the Connecticut Campaign for Paid Family Leave.

PPSNE is supporting legislation that provides paid family and medical leave (including 12 weeks of coverage in a 12-month period for all workers), progressive wage replacement, public administration, job protection, and an inclusive definition of family. For five years, we have urged Connecticut lawmakers to provide families with a system that would allow them to take time off for recovery from a serious health condition, the birth or adoption of a child, foster care placement, caregiving for an ill or injured family member, serving as an organ or bone marrow donor, caring for an injured service member, or issues with domestic violence.

**Paid family and medical leave is an essential component of reproductive freedom.** Often, women who lack access to paid family and medical leave must forego important medical care or treatment. These decisions

**"These decisions can have devastating health outcomes that disproportionately impact workers of color—including black women, who experience a maternal mortality and complications rate from pregnancy three to four times higher than white women."**

can have devastating health outcomes that disproportionately impact workers of color—including black women, who experience a maternal mortality and complications rate from pregnancy three to four times higher than white women. We need an inclusive paid family system in our state that covers all workers, no matter what their families look like.

**Have a story you want to share?**

Go to <http://bit.ly/PFMLStoryShare>.

**Want to help?**

Get involved with the Connecticut Campaign for Paid Family Leave today!

Go to [www.paidfamilyleavect.org](http://www.paidfamilyleavect.org).

## Healthy Relationships Include Enthusiastic Consent

*PPSNE Educators Include Enthusiastic Consent into Sex Education Workshops for Youth*

Consent is a clearly communicated agreement between partners to engage in a chosen sexual activity. **Only yes means yes.** But Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) doesn't stop there. We believe that open and honest communication is the foundation of healthy relationships, and when **consent is enthusiastic**, all individuals involved clearly understand that everyone is willing, and excited to be engaging in that sexual activity.

PPSNE facilitates healthy relationships and consent workshops for middle and high school students across Connecticut and Rhode Island. **Through our workshops, young people actively engage their minds and hearts to bring an understanding and practice of consent and communication to life in their relationships.**

PPSNE also offers *Real Life. Real Talk.* workshops for parents, caregivers, teachers, and other adults who interact with young people. **Our educators teach them how to be better sex educators for children and provide resources for addressing consent for every age group.** After attending our workshops, adults say they feel more comfortable and informed about discussing sex with youth at home or school.

PPSNE offers the *Healthy Relationships* workshops in partnership with the state of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Our educators facilitate professional development workshops with several community partners, including the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence. PPSNE also partners with Brown University to provide training on enthusiastic consent for facilitators of the Sexual Health Advocacy through Peer Education (SHAPE) program.

PPSNE's workshops have produced a new generation of educators: Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality (STARS). These PPSNE ambassadors educate their peers about the importance of enthusiastic consent in a relationship. Providence STARS have also testified in support of legislation that would require public schools in Rhode Island to teach about enthusiastic consent, arguing that it is an essential part of comprehensive sex education.

**Contact us at [education@ppsne.org](mailto:education@ppsne.org) to learn more about our consent and healthy relationship workshops.**



Last year, **338** youth-serving professionals reached **over 10,000** young people in schools and community organizations.

**90** PPSNE STARS initiated **14,866** contacts with peers and classmates.



## When Giving is Receiving: My Experience as a PPSNE Volunteer

*How Volunteering at PPSNE Has Built New Friendships and a Sense of Community for a Whole Family*  
by Erica Buchsbaum

It is hard for me to say what part of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's work is most important to me. I have a deep appreciation for everything Planned Parenthood does—from providing compassionate and high-quality health care, to educating all members of our community about reproduction and relationships, to advocacy. **This work has become vitally important, as threats to health care access and funding have increased significantly in recent years.** The staff and volunteers at Planned Parenthood are truly my heroes, and it has given me great pride to raise awareness of what they do, as well as financial resources so they can continue to do this work.

When I moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, a friend invited me to the PPSNE Spring Luncheon. I thought it would be a great opportunity to meet like-minded women and support an organization I had long admired. After the luncheon, I was invited to join the volunteer committee for the following year. The year after, I became a co-chair of the event. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the Spring Luncheon more than double in size over the last decade and become PPSNE's largest fundraiser.

**Anyone who knows me knows that I love talking about Planned Parenthood and teaching people about what they do.** My husband, Matt, now invites his friends to attend the Spring Luncheon, and we co-hosted an event for Planned Parenthood called "Talking to Our Kids About the Birds & Bees". Speaking of our children, our three daughters proudly wear their pink "I Stand With

Planned Parenthood" t-shirts around town and love helping set up at the luncheon each year.

If you have ever thought about getting involved with Planned Parenthood, what are you waiting for?! Whether you join an event committee, visit a Planned Parenthood health center for your next checkup, or invite a Planned Parenthood educator to speak to your school or community organization, **I promise that you will meet amazing people and be proud to be affiliated with PPSNE.** I know I have been.



*Three generations of women who are proud to wear pink! (L-R) Erica Buchsbaum, her daughter Ali, and her mother, Cherie, at the 2017 Women's March in New York City.*

### JOIN US FOR VOLUNTEER NIGHTS IN CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND

**NEW! BRIDGEPORT**  
4697 Main Street  
June 6, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

**NEW HAVEN**  
345 Whitney Avenue  
3rd Wednesday of  
each month, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**PROVIDENCE**  
175 Broad Street  
2nd Wednesday of  
each month, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**CONTACT [VOLUNTEERS@PPSNE.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEERS@PPSNE.ORG) AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!**

# April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

We Are Grateful for Our Volunteers Who Give Their Time and Hearts in So Many Ways



Welcome Crew Volunteers Whitney and Elis greet our patients each week in Providence.



Volunteers Sarah, Amy and Justin assemble safe sex kits at our monthly Volunteer Nights in New Haven.

## WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

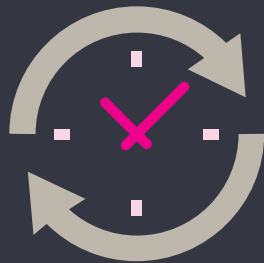
Just this year we have...



# 756 Students & Volunteers

Who have volunteered...

# 7,303.50 Hours



Administration volunteers like Jackie assist in numerous ways from data entry to research.



Volunteers and Research Interns participate in orientation to learn more about PPSNE.

### FOCUS Contributors

Stephen J. Grant  
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Tiffany Tudder  
Erika Ulanecki  
Marjorie Wren  
Susan Yolen

## Meet Planned Parenthood Federation of America's New President - Dr. Leana Wen

Dr. Leana Wen joined us this past Fall as the new president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and is speaking on behalf of the most vulnerable communities across the nation. She is working to expand access to health care, reduce health disparities, and find innovative solutions to address public health problems.

Dr. Wen is the first physician to lead Planned Parenthood in nearly 50 years. This experience gives her a powerful perspective. As an emergency room physician and public health commissioner, Dr. Wen has seen firsthand the difference that access to quality reproductive health care can make in people's lives—and what happens when policies and politics stand in the way.



*"Reproductive health care is health care. Women's health care is health care. Health care must be understood as a fundamental human right. Planned Parenthood is health care."*

- Dr. Leana Wen

**For more than 100 years, no organization has done more for women's health than Planned Parenthood. Dr. Wen knows the lifesaving work we do for our most vulnerable communities. We welcome Dr. Wen and look forward to introducing her to our Connecticut and Rhode Island supporters.**

### PPSNE Information

Headquarters: 203.865.5158

[ppsne.org](http://ppsne.org)

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### Connect With Us



[subscribe@ppsne.org](mailto:subscribe@ppsne.org)

[#ISStandWithPP](https://twitter.com/ISStandWithPP)

Show your support by making a contribution today at [ppsne.org/donate](http://ppsne.org/donate) or call **203.865.5158**



New marketing campaign for Planned Parenthood reminds us that **Planned Parenthood Is Health Care.**