

THESE DOORS STAY OPEN.



New Director Takes Primary Care Services at PPSNE to New Heights

Third health center receives national recognition for patient-centered health care.

As the battle for health care for all continues, two things remain true: (1) Every person deserves high-quality health care; and (2) **Planned Parenthood will provide life-saving health care services for any person who comes through our doors, no matter what.** Because of you, we have been able to keep this promise for nearly 100 years. As we continue to expand our primary care services to meet more of our patients' needs, the word is out that we treat acute conditions from sore throats to sprains and strains; and chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and kidney disease. More people are coming to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England for their primary care to get healthy and have positive health outcomes.

Nicole Phillips, MSN, APRN, FNP-C joined PPSNE 16 months ago. Since then, additional primary care services are being offered at each health center in CT and RI. **Extensive training continues across the state to provide depression care and help reduce mental health stigma.** Enfield and Manchester health centers are the latest to add depression care for patients, and by the end of 2020, our patients will be able to get depression care at all of our health centers in CT and RI.

Our Behavioral Health Specialist diagnoses and treats mental, behavioral, and emotional issues, and has added new co-locations at the the Manchester and Hartford health centers to better serve our patients.



Nicole Phillips, new Director of Primary Care Services enhances health care options for patients.

We partnered with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine to bring our patients SBIRT – Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment for alcohol and drug use. This evidence-based practice is used to identify, reduce and prevent abuse and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. We offer the SBIRT screening and education at 100% of our health centers.

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Your Generosity Makes So Much Possible at PPSNE

Thank you for your unwavering support.

So much has happened since I last connected with you in PPSNE's FOCUS newsletter:

In July we faced a serious setback in the fight for reproductive rights when, after months of litigation and lobbying, the Trump-Pence administration "gag rule" went into effect, making it illegal for health care providers in the Title X family planning funding program to refer patients for an abortion. This "gag rule" is a cruel and direct attack on anyone who can't afford the rising costs of health care - the very people the Title X program was intended to help.

We will not lie to our patients. We are now working to mitigate the annual loss of more than \$2 million - funds that supported over 42,500 people across CT and RI who in 2018, depended on Title X to help pay for their care.

With your help, this injustice will not stand. Thank you to those who have already stepped up with increased support! Please watch for ways in which you can help in our efforts to be sure that our patients can get care, no matter what.

Despite these challenging times, we also have many achievements to celebrate, several of which you will read about on the following pages. One of the highlights of the last few months is the result of our accreditation process as a member of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. PPSNE is reviewed - from top to bottom - every three years; and we passed with flying colors! During this comprehensive survey, our accreditors:

- Reviewed **614** medical records;
- Observed **92** clinical staff and **162** service observations;
- Reviewed **54** personnel and **27** credentialing files;



Amanda Skinner, President and CEO

- Interviewed **numerous** staff across all departments; and
- Reviewed **hundreds** of documents and policies.

The rigor of this process increases every year, so being recommended for full accreditation is a huge accomplishment and a reflection of the incredible hard work of every member of the PPSNE team.

All of this - and so much more - is made possible because of your support for all the people we serve. Particularly at this time of year, I offer my gratitude for your generosity. Truly, we couldn't do our work without you.

In Solidarity,
Amanda

Providence Health Center Sees Tremendous Growth

Providence health center grows as new center manager takes the lead.



Enercida Valerio, Providence Health Center Manager

Meet Enercida Valerio, the new Providence Health Center Manager. Enercida has been at Planned Parenthood for more than 13 years. She seamlessly stepped into this new role seven months ago, when Danika Severino Wynn

was promoted to Regional Director after serving as the Providence Health Center Manager for

nearly two years. In April 2017, the health center relocated to 175 Broad Street, Providence – **expanding life-saving health care and primary care services and business hours to meet the needs of our patients.** PPSNE continues to attract more and more patients. In 2017, we served 72,000 patients in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Today, we serve more than 78,000 patients.

The Providence health center has changed and expanded for the better over the decades. These enhancements have been especially meaningful for the patients, supporters, volunteers and the people who work here. **Hear from Enercida Valerio in her own words:**

Q: What has excited you most at the new Providence health center over the past two-and-a-half years?

A: *My daily interactions with our patients are exciting, rewarding, and meaningful all at the same time. Our patients love our new health center—the space, the parking, the ease of getting an appointment, and their providers.*

Q: Can the new health center treat more patients than the old facility?

A: *We had about 12,750 visits the year before we moved here and last year we had over 15,000. We expect to top 16,000 visits this year.*

Q: What explains the 20% increase of visits here on Broad Street?

A: *We have a lot more space and we're also offering primary care services. We increased our staff presence and have three health care providers working at all times. We have more appointments available, as well as Sunday hours twice a month. This all helps increase access to the services people need.*

Q: How have you and the staff accommodated this demand?

A: *We have worked hard to reduce the wait time for patients. The new design of the center allows staff and patients to move easily through their care. Taking the time to figure out how to best serve our patients is a part of the meaningful work Planned Parenthood does.*

Q: How are patients responding to Planned Parenthood's primary care services?

A: *Patients are loving primary care! They may come in for their birth control and then come back for primary care services like diabetes, depression, and anxiety. They already know and trust our providers.*

Q: What has been most rewarding for you during your 13 years at Planned Parenthood?

A: *The patient interactions - I love our patients! Being able to help anyone who enters our doors is why I come to work every day. Each and every day, I can make a difference in the life of a patient. That feels good when I go home at the end of the day.*

Providence Health Center is Experiencing Extraordinary Growth

See Providence’s growth by the numbers.

	2017	2018	2019	2020 Projections
VISITS	12,753	13,534	15,059	16,012
GYNECOLOGICAL EXAMS	2,283	2,289	2,384	2,434

Primary Care continued from page 1.

Patient navigators help our patients manage their next steps for health care. Our Primary Care, Breast Care and PrEP-Trans Care Navigators work daily to keep our patients in touch with their providers and their health care plans. It is this patient-centered work that helps increase positive health outcomes for our patients. It is also the work that earns us important national recognition.



We are pleased to announce that the **Providence health center has achieved Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition for primary care from**

the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This national designation recognizes the Providence health center’s systematic use of patient-centered, coordinated care management processes. This recognition demonstrates that the Providence health center provides effective, evidence-based care to our patients. The right health care provider can make the difference between living with chronic diseases or suffering from them. Providence is our third health center to achieve PCMH recognition. The Judy Tabar Health Center in Hartford was designated as a PCMH in 2017 and Stamford’s Joan O.L. Tweedy Health Center in 2018.

A New Way to Support PPSNE!

- 1 Schedule vehicle pick up
- 2 CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) sells the vehicle
- 3 CARS provides all necessary tax deduction receipts and forms!

Donating Your Car to PPSNE is as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

TO GET STARTED:
 Visit careasy.org/nonprofit/planned-parenthood-southern-new-england or call 855-500-RIDE (855-500-7433)

Meet the Generation Action Interns Who Now Work at PPSNE

GenAction program at PPSNE builds leaders who make a difference.

For nearly 100 years, PPSNE has cared for millions of people in Connecticut and Rhode Island. We have a legacy within this organization and it's going to take all of us to continue to be dedicated to move the needle on reproductive freedom. **To get us closer, Planned Parenthood Generation Action is working to enhance its connections in communities with people of color to build a more powerful movement**

toward reproductive freedom. Generation Action is an introduction to community organizing and provides young adults tools to create change in the communities we serve. Our GenAction Interns move on to lead extraordinary lives in every field. Meet three who say this program impacted their lives and now they have returned to continue their careers at PPSNE.



TIARA

Tiara is known for being a passionate organizer and strong advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. Although she was already a PPSNE volunteer, Tiara became a GenAction Intern in 2016. She stood for Planned Parenthood at the RI State House for the "Reproductive Privacy Act". Today, Tiara is our Youth Organizing Specialist. **Tiara leads our youth organizing and Generation Action program across Connecticut and Rhode Island. She is guiding young activists, helping them harness their power, energy, and enthusiasm to fight for reproductive freedom and for fundamental justice for all.**



JESUS

Jesus was excited to become a GenAction Intern, having seen the confidence PPSNE helped instill in his peers who were STARS* at Wilbur Cross High School. The best part of GenAction for Jesus was being in the program during an election year. He registered people to vote, ensured they knew their candidates, and worked to make sure they were able to make an informed decision. Jesus is now our Youth Development Specialist. **As an Educator, Jesus uses his GenAction skills to help youth contextualize their experiences in society. He creates a safe environment for them to share and learn that they are not alone.**



SHANIQUE

Shanique joined PPSNE this past summer as our Program and Youth Development Specialist serving the greater Hartford area where she is deeply engaged. As a GenAction Intern, Shanique focused on advocating, teaching and empowering others while providing information about reproductive health, rights, and sexual health. **Today, Shanique is nurturing our youth in the STARS* program in the Hartford community and teaching the importance of self love and healthy relationships.**

**STARS, Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality is our teen peer education program.*

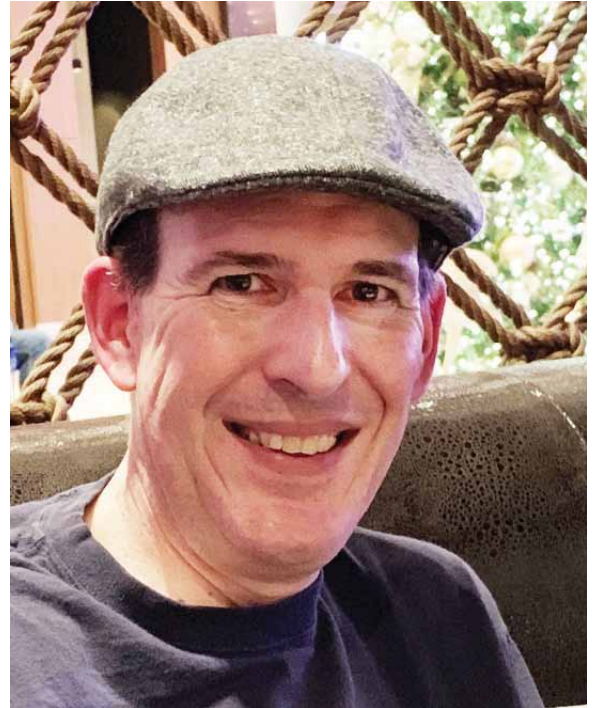
Why I'm Giving More to Fill the Gap that the Federal Government has Created

by Todd Lewis

I began to donate to Planned Parenthood in New York when I landed my first career job in 1991. My company then, as now, offered matching funds for donations, and this is what spurred me to begin to donate. I have changed locations and jobs a few times since then but have always supported my local Planned Parenthood.

I wanted my donation to have the greatest impact on the community, and Planned Parenthood is one of the few organizations that everyone of childbearing age (and beyond) has some need for. In a more just society, these services would be funded 100% through our tax dollars. But in our current system, the funding falls to us as individuals, and I am proud to uphold that responsibility.

In response to the Title X gag rule, I have increased my employer-matched donation by a third. **It is my hope that others will increase their donations as well.** It is disappointing that the Administration is requiring Title X-funded providers to withhold essential health information and to limit the services provided. Federal health care funding should not be manipulated for political gain. If the Administration truly wants to reduce the number of abortions, they should *increase* Title X funding and remove all restrictions on its use. I am proud to support PPSNE to help enable them to continue their mission independent of Title X funding in the face of this misguided policy.



Don't Miss Out on Advocacy Action!

Keep up to date on what is happening with Planned Parenthood Votes! CT & RI! Advocacy updates have moved to **ACTION Quarterly**— the new Planned Parenthood Votes! donor newsletters for CT & RI that keep you up to date on organizing and electoral efforts such as the legislative session updates and actions, youth and community organizing, electoral campaigns, and more. You'll get all the details you need to stay informed on the impact of your PPV!CT & RI support. If you're interested in receiving the inaugural edition of **ACTION Quarterly** for your state, contact Amanda at advocate@ppsne.org.

PPV! CT & RI are the 501(c)4 organizations under which Planned Parenthood works to advance access to health care and defend reproductive rights in CT and RI.

Healthy Relationships are for Everyone

Creating a world where all people have access to sexual education.



Every person deserves relationships that include consent, open and honest conversations, and positive interactions. Since 2011, PPSNE has worked in partnership with the state of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (CT DDS) to offer a program called "Healthy Relationships" for people with intellectual disabilities. "Healthy Relationships" consists of 18 hours of instruction. **Nearly 70 individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in the care of the CT DDS participate fully** and receive training on healthy relationships and human sexuality.

We believe that all people should have the tools, the knowledge, and the resources to make smart decisions about their lives and their fertility. However, for too long, society has ignored or denied the rights of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to have romantic or sexual relationships. **It's time for the public dialogue to include a positive and proactive approach to healthy sexuality.** Through the "Healthy Relationships" program, individuals can learn about their bodies, the importance of safe sex, and healthy relationships. The program gives participants a

better understanding of who they are, a chance to learn the difference between good and bad relationships, and an opportunity to practice advocating for their own relationships.

The "Healthy Relationships" program includes using effective communication skills, role playing, and visual assistance for peer active training (extending the learning beyond the facilitator). Every participant has a chance to explore, ask questions, have options, and get answers.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

12.03.19 | GivingTuesday.org

One of the best ways to get involved is in your own community. **Consider making a gift to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England at:**

**PPSNE.ORG/
GIVINGTUESDAY**

FOCUS Contributors

Katey Ferreira
Claire Phipps
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Annual Spring Luncheon

FEATURING: Brittany Packnett Cunningham

Award-winning national leader in social justice.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE: Stamford Marriott, Stamford, CT

GET INVOLVED! Join our work committee.

Call 203-752-2813 to pitch in!

Brittany Packnett Cunningham is an activist, an unapologetic educator, a writer, and an award-winning national leader in social justice – and she is our featured guest at our Annual Spring Luncheon on April 7, 2020. **At the intersection of culture and justice, Brittany was cited by President Barack Obama as a leader whose "voice is going to be making a difference for years to come."** She is the author of the forthcoming book, "We Are Like Those Who Dream", with One World.

A former teacher, policy expert, and non-profit executive director, **Brittany has committed her life and career to justice and lends her voice in the work of social change, empowerment and freedom.**

Brittany was a Fall 2018 Fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics. She was a Ferguson protestor and continues in activism as, among other things, co-founder of Campaign Zero, a policy platform to end police violence.

Brittany was a Video Columnist for *Mic* news, and currently writes a column for *Teen Vogue* called, "Listen Up!". Recently, Brittany launched Love & Power, a hub, that includes statement apparel, created to inspire, empower, and outfit everyday people to seismically shift society.

Brittany was an appointed member of the Ferguson Commission and President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Today, she continues to advocate for urgent systemic change at critical decision-making tables and through national and international media. Join us as we welcome Brittany to impart lessons of empowerment, movement building, social impact, and leadership for women and girls - especially those of color.

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