

An Escorts View: Jean Poppei

Every day across the country, our opposition show up in droves to protest at our health centers. The Capital Region is no different. Luckily, our Albany Health Center move reduced protester access but our Troy and Hudson Health Centers are regularly sprinkled with offensive, inaccurate, shaming signs accompanied by protesters trying to sway our patients from accessing the healthcare they have deemed best for themselves. UHPP volunteers combat this with dignity, respect, a patient escort vest and friendly face. We sat down with Jean Poppei, who is a patient escort at our Troy Center to ask about her experience.

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It is certainly about creating a welcoming presence Jean said, but equally as important I see myself as a witness and equally a demonstrator of pride for UHPP. It is important for patients and the general public to see something other than the protesters. We do not counter protest or engage, but instead offer a kind and respectful alternative to the protesters.”

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Does it make a difference amidst all the negativity? Without a doubt in Jean's mind. From pedestrians going out of their way to shake her hand and say thank you to the unspoken gratitude from patients. For staff and patients alike, Jean wants everyone to know and feel the support that is out there-this is a small part of making that happen.



Donors—your help urgently needed to improve UHPP patient health in 2016!

Health Enhancing Technology to be Used in Health Center, if Funding Can Be Found

At UHPP, we integrate cutting edge technology to improve the satisfaction and outcomes of our patients, whenever possible. A vital tool is available to help us achieve this goal! The tool, an electronic form intake, empowers patients to document their own health history. Not only does this use provider time more efficiently, increasing the number of patients receiving care, it increases the level of sensitive health and behavioral histories provided. Both of these advantages enhance the quality of our care exponentially.

UHPP has joined other Planned Parenthood affiliates to negotiate lower rates when possible. If we can fund this project by January, we will be able to enter the agreement and save \$20,000 on the project, making it \$16,250 rather than \$36,500! Donations will cover the initial costs to retrofit our clinics, update our website and electronic medical records system. This investment will have a profound impact on our patient health. UHPP is an exceptional provider because of supporters like you. Philanthropy is the difference between basic care and excellence—you make that difference.

For more information, contact Curran Streett, Vice President for Development, at (518) 512-9027 or Curran@uhpp.org.



Your gift guarantees patients the best care possible. Please give today and support the UHPP community. www.uhpp.org.



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190 Fairview Avenue
Hudson, NY 12534
200 Broadway
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Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

CHOICE Remarks

WINTER 2015

Upcoming

Roe v. Wade Celebration
Friday, February 12th
at 6 pm honoring
2016 Champion of
Choice award winner
Senator Kirsten
Gillibrand



Online Appointment Scheduling Now Available!

This October, UHPP launched online appointment scheduling. This service will increase access and convenience for our patients. What do our patients think? They love it! Our first online appointment was made within 30 minutes.

The War on Women by UHPP President/CEO Chelly Hegan

Six congressional hearings against Planned Parenthood based on accusations that have been proven to be egregiously false and contrived.

Medicaid patients denied access to Women's Healthcare at Planned Parenthoods in Texas, Ohio, Indiana, Utah, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky with more states at risk every day.

State officials raiding Women's Health centers to collect the private health information of women who have had abortions.

These represent only some recent attempts to limit women's personal freedom. Every day women are paid less, offered inadequate health care, suffer acts of violence and live in poverty at a rate of one in seven in the US. In New York State, 30-40% of female led households live in poverty. And yet there are those who believe that when we say there is a war on women that we are being alarmist and extreme.

State after state, attempts to deny women access to care at Planned Parenthoods are squashed, minimum wage work in many states is gaining ground as we recognize that this is a path to lift women and families out of poverty and we are changing the stigma of sexual assault and domestic violence every day. Planned Parenthood is at the front of this battle. Your support empowers women to access the care they need to control when and if they start families. It allows them to gain the education and financial security—the single biggest indicator for women to support themselves and their families to turn some of these disturbing trends around.

We are not being alarmists, we are not being extreme, we are speaking truth about women's experiences. Keeping this fight in front of us with the support and encouragement that you provide is the only way we will ever win it.

PPFA President/CEO Cecile Richards
testifying before Congress.



The war on women is real. There are casualties, there are victims and we are all potential collateral. However it is because of supporters like you that the war is not lost.

What Can You Do?

You make the stories in this newsletter possible! Make a donation today to ensure Planned Parenthood is available to all who need our services for generations to come.

learn more at
www.uhpp.org.

UHPP Supporters #PinkOUT Central Avenue

We called and you came! Supporters came from local college campuses, from office buildings, from homes, jobs, pulled their cars over and joined us—in the rain to show support for Planned Parenthood. More than 125 people joined Planned Parenthood staff outside the Albany Health Center on September 29th for National #PinkOUT Day.

With nearly 300 events nationwide, our hashtags trended in the top three and millions engaged with us online -- we definitely PINKED OUT! We created the largest and most impactful National Day of Action in Planned Parenthood history. Together, we created a movement moment that demonstrated our power, engaged our people, and moved our work of expanding access to sexual and reproductive health and rights forward.

#PinkOut was a victory, however our campaign is not over and the battles ahead are uphill. We must press forward with the winds at our backs. Nationally and locally -- we made it clear that when our opponents play dirty politics with reproductive health care, real people pay the price. Real people that we provide care to everyday in communities that need it most. We need your energy, passion, and commitment to win in the #StandwithPP Campaign fights to come.

To get involved, fill out an application online at uhpp.org.

"I've always said if you don't have a uterus, you can't legislate against it," said supporter, Jasmine Shea



Take Action— You can make a difference!

RECEIVE ACTION ALERTS:

The Planned Parenthood Action Network (PPAN) sends out timely calls to action by email so - at the touch of a button - you can become involved in a local rally or lobby day, or directly contact decision makers on current issues impacting women's health. Search for "Planned Parenthood Action Network" for information on joining.

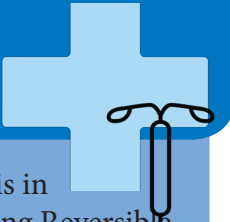
MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK:

Encourage your friends to get involved with Planned Parenthood as a volunteer, intern, activist and donor!

SPEAK OUT ONLINE:

Members of UHPP Voices track coverage of our issues in the local media and on social media, and help keep our issues visible and understood through letters to the editor, blog and Facebook posts, tweets, and more. If you are a writer, a media "hound", have a blog, or simply share opinions or information frequently through social media, contact katherine@uhpp.org to learn more.

Thank you donors! Our patients had a need and you met it! Most effective birth control now possible following abortion services



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, a new program is in place enabling UHPP to offer IUDs and other Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) to patients at the same time they are here in our health center for an abortion. A woman who comes to us to terminate a pregnancy is in the best position to make a decision to prevent an unintended pregnancy in the future. However, because of Hyde Amendment restrictions providing affordable birth control for patients at the same time they are accessing abortion had been impossible.

Supporter Kathy Thiel's reaction was shock - so she decided to do something about it. Kathy provided seed funding to supply affordable LARC methods to women regardless of their ability to pay, at the time they want it. "It is so logical, and vital to improving lives of people who want to decide when and if they have children. To me, it is the best way to set patients up to succeed in the future. I wanted to help UHPP make this possible."

So why wasn't this already happening?

One serious reality for Planned Parenthood is the strict regulations followed to comply with the restrictive Hyde Amendment. We cannot use the federal drug discount program on any services that take place in an abortion related visit. In this case, it means absorbing the cost of \$700-\$1,000 per patient if the method was not covered by insurance or if the patient had to pay out of pocket. Money should never be what stands between a woman, her future and her health care.

Regardless of the political and regulatory environment, we found that our patients often wanted to get LARC at the same visit as an abortion and our providers know this is the best time to provide it. But the Hyde Amendment created a roadblock that Kathy could not abide.

This is where our donors are able to make a world of difference. Kathy made a generous offer. She would make this program possible if other donors would join her to be sure that it was fully funded. And they did! The three donors together were able to stock our health centers with LARC devices dedicated to patients accessing abortions. Our fully compliant program is seamless to our patients and is sustainable for the future.

From Peer Educator to Education Director

"I have always had a passion for public health. The prevention and treatment of STDs and HIV. I wanted to make a contribution." says UHPP's new Director of Education Zanetta Gary.

Zanetta has been committed to Planned Parenthood since beginning as a peer educator as a teen in Utica. (Pictured on the right at a rally in Albany) **"Planned Parenthood was really the first and best place when I was young to get sexual health education; my school barely talked about sex ed."** she said.

From there, she worked as an intern for Planned Parenthood in Albany during college where she graduated from SUNY Albany with a double Masters and double Bachelors in Women's Studies, African Studies and Public Health. Her journey continues as a member of the staff. Zanetta is leading our team of four educators and three Youth Health Promoters (YHPs) providing education in area high schools and middle schools.

"There were not a lot places I could get a job at 14...I became a liaison between teens and providers. I was who the kids came to for condoms, for questions about what to. It felt good to have correct information and help my friends. That feeling stuck with me and has guided my career."



What is the Hyde Amendment? A legislative provision barring the use of most federal funds to pay for abortion. In place since 1976 this has restricted access to millions of women.